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Last Air Force Regiment Leaves Czechoslovakia

LD2101224691 Moscow TASS in English 1956 GMT 21 Jan 91

[by TASS correspondent Anatoliy Shapovalov]

[Text] Prague January 21 TASS—The last Soviet Air Force unit, the Tallinn fighter air regiment, today left Czechoslovakia.

Deputies to the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly, military attaches from various countries and students attended the seeing-off ceremony. They warmly thanked crews of MiG fighters and wished them good luck. Speakers noted that over many years of service in the Czechoslovak air defence, pilots fully implemented their tasks to protect the country.

Central Army Group Commander Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev said 77.2 per cent of all troops have already left Czechoslovakia.

The pullout is being carried out according to the schedule, said M. Kocab, chairman of the Czechoslovak parliament's commission to monitor Soviet troop pullout.

Gorbachev Issues Message on Nuclear Weapons

LD1901174191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] A conference of the states that are party to the treaty prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in space, and under the sea has ended in New York. The conference, which was attended by delegations from more than 100 states, was held in order to examine an amendment to the treaty, the adoption of which could have prohibited nuclear tests in all areas. The amendment, however, was not adopted. This resulted from its rejection by two powers—the United States and the UK, initial parties to the treaty. Only the Soviet Union, the third initial party, backed this proposal.

A message of greetings sent by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to the participants in the conference was read out at the conference. This message reiterated that the Soviet Union will not change its course, which is directed at achieving the absolute prohibition of nuclear tests as soon as possible, and that this is the most important step on the path toward peace without nuclear weapons. The message also confirmed that the USSR is ready to cease its nuclear tests at any time if the United States does so as well.

Optimism Voiced on U.S. Strategic Weapons Talks

LD2201000291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2055 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 21 Jan (TASS)—USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Aleksey Obukhov stated in Washington today that in the view of the Soviet side, a treaty on cutting strategic offensive weapons could well be ready for signing at the summit meeting in Moscow on 11-13 February this year. A. Obukhov arrived in the U.S. capital for consultations within the scope of preparing a treaty on strategic offensive weapons with U.S. Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs Reginald Bartholomew. Also taking part in the consultations, which began today at the State Department, are the leaders of the Soviet and U.S. delegations at these talks.

Replying to questions from reporters prior to the meeting, the Soviet representative said that he was "confident" that the unresolved problems could be settled before the summit meeting, and that this most important Soviet-U.S. agreement could be prepared for signing by the presidents of the USSR and the United States.

"We have no major discrepancies," said A. Obukhov, "there remain only technical problems. We are very close to resolving them." According to the head of the Soviet delegation, all remaining problems are fully amenable to settlement, and it will be possible to prepare the final version of the text of a treaty on cutting strategic offensive weapons within ten days of settling contentious issues.

Both the U.S. and Soviet sides have claims here. Among them are the issue of the U.S. side's observation and monitoring of production at Soviet factories engaged in assembling missiles and manufacturing solid fuel for carriers; the USSR's demand for the right to carry out inspections of U.S. factories producing the latest B-2 strategic bombers using "Stealth" technology; and the problem of quantitative limitations on the exchange of telemetric data about missile test launches.

Churkin Condemns 18 Jan Iraqi Attack on Israel

PM1801202791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by diplomatic correspondent M. Yusin: "The USSR Has Condemned the Strike Against Israel"]

[Text] The Soviet Union has condemned the missile strike against Israeli territory made by Saddam Husayn. Responding to a request from IZVESTIYA's correspondent to comment on this event, Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Foreign Ministry Information Administration, declared: "Right from the start the Soviet Union has called for the conflict to be localized and not allowed to spread. We condemn the attempt to extend the geographic framework of the military clash."

Moscow, like Washington, is not interested in seeing Israel drawn into combat. This could have unpredictable consequences for the region and for the world as a whole.

Vitaliy Churkin reported that "a detailed official statement by the Soviet leadership" on the situation in the Gulf is being prepared. We did not yet have the text of the statement at our disposal by the time this issue of IZVESTIYA closed. It will most likely be made public later in the day.

Churkin also declared that in connection with the development of events in the Gulf, the Foreign Ministry is preparing a whole number of appeals to the states directly or indirectly involved in the conflict. Among the countries to which the Soviet leadership intends to appeal he named Israel (it may be assumed that Moscow will try to persuade Tel Aviv to show restraint and not respond to Iraq's provocation), the United States, the Arab states, and the members of the EEC and the Nonaligned Movement.

Churkin Holds Foreign Ministry Briefing 19 Jan

No Contact With Saddam Reported

LD1901165191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—Dealing with the second missile strike against Israel, Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at a briefing today: "The points made in yesterday's USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement remain in force." [passage omitted]

Moving on to answer questions, Vitaliy Churkin did not rule out the possibility of a fresh USSR initiative to advance the cause of a peaceful settlement. "If we sense that at any particular moment anything can be done to advance the cause of a settlement, that will of course be done," he said, noting that the Soviet Union did not link its further initiatives with a reply from the Iraqi leadership to the message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev.

He denied reports that Mikhail Gorbachev had been in telephone contact with Saddam Husayn before or after the start of hostilities, recalling that the only opportunity to meet a representative of the Iraqi leadership, namely Tariq 'Aziz, in the bunker of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs fell after the start of war to the Soviet ambassador, who handed over a message for Saddam Husayn. The diplomat added that "the embassy does have contact with the Iraqi side" and Moscow expects to receive a reply to its messages to Iraq.

Comments on Gulf Developments

LD1901154791 Moscow TASS in English 1447 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Ryabinkin]

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—According to the latest information, supplied by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, the safety of Soviet citizens staying in the Gulf zone is ensured quite reliably, and there are no casualties among them. This was stressed by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin at a briefing here today. The topic of the briefing was the developments on the theatre of operations, specifically, the second Iraqi missile attack on Israel.

"Taking into account a complicated and dramatic military- political situation in the Gulf zone, the Soviet leadership, a working group created in accordance with the presidential decree of August 8, last year, and the Soviet Foreign Ministry continue to follow most closely the situation of the Soviet citizens staying in countries of that region. Not only Soviet specialists and staff members of the Soviet Embassy and trade mission in Iraq, but also Soviet citizens in the countries neighbouring on Iraq—Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Israel—are within the sphere of special attention of the Soviet leadership. Communication is being continually maintained with Soviet diplomatic and consular missions in those countries.

"According to reports coming from them, including those received just recently, the safety of our people is ensured quite reliably, and there are no casualties among them. This goes both for Iraq and Tel Aviv, where staff members of the Soviet consulate-general are staying," Churkin said.

Speaking about the second missile attack on Israel and "all matters dealing with it", Churkin stated: "Provisions formulated in the Friday statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry remain in force." The statement of the Soviet Foreign Ministry described the first missile attack at Tel Aviv and Haifa as an "attempt to transform the Kuwaiti problem into a regional confrontation, to kindle military conflagration on the whole of the Middle East".

The document, that was read at the Friday briefing by Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov urged the Iraqi leadership "to realise that its actions result only in the loss of life and destruction for the Iraqi nation, in more suffering for the region in general". At the same time, the USSR urged the Israeli government to show "necessary restraint" and "not to take the path leading to further heightening of tension in the Middle East".

Churkin added that on Friday the Soviet side had sent an appeal to the Israeli leadership, along with appeals to a number of Arab countries on this subject (responding to questions, he said that the Palestinian leadership also received the appeal). "We were told that the Israeli leadership would be immediately informed of the appeal, and the ideas expressed in it would be taken into consideration during the making of corresponding decisions by the Israeli government," the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Bessmertnykh, Matlock Meet

LD1901152791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1401 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—The reaction in the United States to events in the Baltic region was one of the important themes of the meeting that took place yesterday evening [18 January] between USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Jack Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR.

As was reported by Vitaliy Churkin, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, at a briefing here today, during the meeting there was discussion of a broad range of questions. Considerable attention was paid to the situation in the Persian Gulf and to Soviet-U.S. relations. There was discussion of the prospects for contacts between the two sides, including at the ministerial level. Certain questions connected to the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit meeting were touched upon.

"The situation in the Baltic region was also touched upon," Vitaliy Churkin stressed. "The USSR foreign minister expressed concern at the way this theme is being discussed in the United States, including in Congress and in the mass media. The impression is being created that people there are not grasping the nuances of what is happening in the Baltic region, and in Lithuania in particular. As a result, the campaign thath has been unleashed could lead to a negative result; that is, to the exacerbation of the situation. Moscow sees its task as being to arrange dialogue and talks whereas the nihilistic approach of the West could hinder that."

Views Weapons Treaty 'Elaboration'

LD1901160191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1402 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishev and Sergey Ryabkin]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—The Soviet Union and the United States are beginning elaboration of the strategic offensive weapons treaty. With this aim, according to the agreement achieved, consultations at the deputy foreign ministers level will begin in Washington on 21 January, reported Vitaliy Churkin, the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Information Department, at a briefing.

"The Soviet side will be represented by Aleksey Obukhov, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, and on the American by Reginald Bartholomew, the under secretary of state, the diplomat said. These consultations will be held with the participation of representatives of the Soviet and U.S. delegations at the talks on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons."

As the representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported, "the aim of these meetings is elaboration of the strategic offensive weapons treaty in light of the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit."

Churkin 20 Jan Briefing Views Gulf Developments

Gulf Travel Advisory Issued

LD2001152191 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—"The Soviet Foreign Ministry recommends Soviet citizens to temporarily abstain from travelling to the Gulf region and adjacent countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin announced at a briefing here today.

"This recommendation is extended also to Soviet citizens planning to visit Israel at private invitations," he added.

Churkin specified that the Foreign Ministry's recommendation to abstain from travelling to the region does not mean that it will refuse to issue visas to persons, intending to leave for permanent residence in Israel.

According to information from the Soviet consulate-general in Tel Aviv, Churkin said, "there have been no reports of casualties among Soviet citizens in Israel."

The spokesman said that a total of 600 to 700 soviet citizens are now in permanent residence in Israel. Five Soviet citizens are working in the Soviet consulate-general in Tel Aviv and seven others in the office of the Soviet Chamber of Industry and Commerce, including two women and two children. Two Soviet people are in

Israel on a mission from the Soviet Committee for Television and Radio and fifty on a mission from the Russian Spiritual Administration.

Churkin said that "a considerable number of Soviet citizens are now visiting Israel at the invitation from private individuals", but, he said, "it is impossible to specify the number because the Soviet Union's consular group in Israel has not registered this category of citizens since January 1990."

He added that "over the past two days, about 30 Soviet citizens turned to the USSR Consulate-General in Tel Aviv for advice, help and assistance in leaving for the USSR."

In addition to the above-mentioned categories of Soviet people on official missions to Israel, Churkin said, there are people on short-term business trips there: 13 from sport organisations, including two women and three children, six people from the Institute of Oceanology, including three women, and a national sailing team of twelve.

Baghdad Embassy Staff Reduced

LD2001140291 Moscow TASS in English 1351 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanischev]

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—"Taking into account the situation in Iraq, it has been decided to evacuate from Iraq all Soviet citizens except embassy officials," Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

He said that the Soviet ambassador to Iraq has been instructed to cut the embassy staff to the minimum capable of keeping the embassy in the working order.

"Forty-three people will remain in the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad," Churkin said. "All other Soviet citizens were due to leave Iraq today under an agreement with Iraqi authorities. They must have left Iraq already, but I have no confirmation at this moment," he noted.

The Soviet spokesman did not go into detail about the way the evacuation was organized.

Some Journalists Remain in Baghdad

LD2001171191 Moscow TASS in English 1621 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—The fate of Soviet citizens now in the Gulf region was in the focus of today's briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Speaking about measures taken by the Soviet Foreign Ministry to evacuate Soviet citizens from the conflict zone, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Vitaliy Churkin said Soviet journalists were now in Baghdad, who had arrived there without notifying the embassy.

He said two journalists were from Lithuania, working for a Sajudis press outlet, two others worked for the Ukrainian independent television service, another a journalist from Vologda and still another a photographer of the NOVOSTI press agency.

Another journalist from Estonia, Churkin said, was flown back to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Embassy press-attache met all these journalists, trying to talk them into leaving Iraq. Six journalists refused to leave. During air raids they hid in the shelter at one of the hotels.

Discussion Held With Japanese Envoy

LD2001160991 Moscow TASS in English 1525 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—The Soviet and Japanese approaches to the need to localise and contain the Gulf conflict coincided, it was stated during the conversation here on Saturday between Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Japanese Ambassador to the Soviet Union Sumio Edamura, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

He said the Japanese ambassador praised President Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on the Persian Gulf crisis.

The spokesman said that the conversation was devoted mainly to the continuing preparations for the Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama's visit to the Soviet Union due to begin on Monday.

The Japanese foreign minister's visit to Moscow will mark an important stage in the preparations for the visit of President Mikhail Gorbachev to Tokyo, Churkin stressed.

During the conversation, he noted, conceptual aspects of relations between the Soviet Union and Japan were touched upon and prospects and potential for their development were discussed.

Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh noted that although Soviet-Japanese relations had recently come to show a trend towards improvement, they still wanted greater intensity and more substance.

Bessmertnykh expressed hope that the forthcoming summit would take Soviet-Japanese relations up to a new level of development, intensify and expand them.

Churkin expressed confidence that the forthcoming talks between the Soviet and Japanese foreign ministers in Moscow will create a "good platform" for the proper preparation and holding of the Soviet leader's visit to Japan.

Responds to Patriot Deployment

LD2001172691 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Excerpts] Moscow January 20 TASS—Today's briefing at the Soviet Foreign Ministry focussed on the situation in the Gulf. Soviet spokesman Vitaliy Churkin said the Soviet side continued contacts on the Gulf crisis along diplomatic lines. [passage omitted]

The spokesman recalled that President Gorbachev also sent messages relating to the Gulf crisis to all leaders of Arab countries, including PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The spokesman said the Gulf conflict was in the focus of discussion today by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy and U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union Jack Matlock. The meeting, he noted, took place on the American initiative. [passage omitted]

Churkin specified that the Foreign Ministry's recommendation to abstain from travelling to the region did not mean that it would refuse to issue visas to persons, intending to leave for permanent residence in Israel.

According to information from the Soviet Consulate-General in Tel Aviv, Churkin said, "there have been no reports of casualties among Soviet citizens in Israel."

Asked about the Soviet reaction to the deployment in Israel on Saturday of American Patriot missiles flown in from Western Europe, Churkin said "each country has the right to take all defence measures it finds necessary".

Asked about any talks between the Soviet Union and the United States on the number of Scud missiles remaining in Iraq, the spokesman said that he was not aware of any discussions of this kind. "As far as I know", he added, "the American side has not raised the question", he added.

Churkin Holds 21 Jan Briefing on Gulf, Baltics

Official Iraqi Response Awaited

LD2101133491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1242 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—The Soviet leadership expects an official response from Baghdad to the appeal by USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev to Saddam Husayn to withdraw troops from Kuwait and fulfil all the UN Security Council resolutions, with the aim of halting the war in the Persian Gulf. This has been officially stated by a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Opening today's briefing, Vitaliy Churkin, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry information directorate, said: "From the moment the crisis in the Persian Gulf started, the Soviet Union has done everything conceivable to settle the situation by nonmilitary methods, and to avoid a destructive confrontation. Now, when, to our profound regret, diplomatic efforts in this regard have been unsuccessful, and it has not been possible to aver the worsening scenario for the development of events, the Soviet leadership and President Gorbachev see their task as achieving the quickest possible end to the war, and the restoration of peace, based, of course, on the UN Security Council resolutions."

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman further reminded journalists that when the war first started, Mikhail Gorbachev appealed to Saddam Husayn to show wisdom and withdraw his troops form Kuwait, which would have allowed military actions to be halted at the primary stage. "The USSR president again appealed to the Iraqi leader the following day, 18 January," Vitaliy Churkin said. "The appeal put the issue thus: If Iraq announces the withdrawal of troops from Kuwait, our side will attempt to halt military actions."

Therefore, the Foreign Ministry official spokesman stressed, "this was a matter of steps that would have led to the solution of the main task—the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and the fulfilling by Baghdad of all appropriate UN Security Council resolutions."

"We expect an official response from Iraq to our appeals," the diplomat said.

Gulf Situation, Arms Treaty Talks Viewed

LD2101195591 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—The Soviet leadership is expecting a response from Baghdad to President Mikhail Gorbachev's appeal to Saddam Husayn to withdraw his troops from Kuwait and comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions in order to stop the war in the Gulf, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaliy Churkin told a briefing here today.

If the Iraqi leadership declares that it is ready to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, the Soviet Union will exert efforts to end the war, Churkin said.

First, these efforts should aim to stop military actions on the basis of the Iraqi leadership's statement. Second, in this case, it is possible to speak about "some political and diplomatic process to settle the Gulf crisis. We believe that during this process, the U.N. Security Council could guarantee Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Churkin said.

Speaking about the Soviet Union's role in a Gulf settlement, Churkin said the Soviet Union "is not a mere observer. It exerts efforts, which are an important factor in continuing political contacts around the Gulf".

Asked about Soviet military supplies to potential participants in the Middle East conflict, Churkin recalled that the Soviet Union stopped such supplies to Iraq. As for other countries, the Soviet Union "has not taken any obligations".

He said the Soviet Union has suggested "putting international arms trade in order". International talks are needed to take such a decision, Churkin said.

Speaking about an attack against Iraq from NATO bases in Turkey, Churkin noted that the Soviet Union proceeded from statements by the Turkish leadership that Turkey will not take part in military actions.

Commenting on India's initiative on a temporary ceasefire in the Gulf, Churkin welcomed India's participation in searching for ways for a peace settlement in the region.

Churkin noted that the Soviet Union's humanitarian aid to the anti-Iraqi coalition is "not on the agenda now".

Speaking about possible terrorist activities connected with the Gulf conflict, Churkin said "competent bodies in the Soviet Union are thoroughly monitoring such developments".

Churkin said work on the Soviet-U.S. treaty on strategic offensive weapons is "in its final stage. The sides only have to settle a small number of issues". He recalled that consultations on the issue are beginning in Washington today with the participation of Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksey Obukhov, U.S. Under-secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew and the heads of the Soviet and U.S. delegations at the talks.

Soviet Evacuees Arrive in Iran

LD2101143291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 21 Jan 91

[by TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—A large group of Soviet citizens, who yesterday traveled by motor vehicle to the border with Iran, safely crossed the Iraq-Iran border this morning, the head of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Directorate reported at today's briefing in Moscow.

The evacuated Soviets were met in Iran by representatives of the USSR Embassy in Tehran who will accompany them to the Iranian capital, Vitaliy Churkin said. He reported that the Soviet citizens "have been provided with everything they need." It is expected that this group will leave Tehran for Moscow tomorrow on an Aeroflot flight.

"During the evacuation all necessary measures were taken to ensure safety," the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman added. "With this aim we maintained contacts with the Iraqi and Iranian authorities, and also with the U.S. side".

Vitaliy Churkin also publicized the request by workers at the USSR Embassy in Baghdad to inform their families and friends that they are all healthy and in good spirits.

'Surprised' at U.S. Reaction to Baltics

LD2101152991 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin expressed "surprise" today about criticism by the U.S. State Department of Soviet coverage of developments in Lithuania.

"We paid attention to certain critical statements by the U.S. State Department about coverage by certain Soviet news organisations of events in Lithuania," Churkin told a briefing here today.

"We are surprised by the attempt by State Department representatives to take up censorship functions the Soviet Foreign Ministry lost with the coming of glasnost," he said.

"We would want to know in this connection what the U.S. State Department thinks about Western coverage of events in the Baltics," he said.

"Does the State Department believe that it fully complies with the task of searching for a political way out of the conflict there, the goal, we believe, all who value the interests of the Baltic peoples should aspire to?" he asked.

Soviet Foreign Minister Alekandr Bessmertnykh expressed concern to U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock last Friday about the debate on the Baltic in the U.S. Congress and mass media.

Speaking about the talk at a Saturday briefing, Churkin said: "There is an impression that they (the United States) do not get the hues of developments in the Baltic, in Lithuania in particular. The campaign can result in an adverse effect—to more tension."

"Moscow aims to forge a dialogue, talks, and the West's nihilistic approach can hamper this," he said.

United States & Canada

TASS Notes Bush Concerned Over Baltics

LD2101202391 Moscow TASS in English 1954 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington January 21 TASS—President George Bush today said he was "increasingly concerned" about the situation in the Baltics.

"I would again appeal to the Soviet Union leaders to resist using force. The world is very much concerned about that," Bush told reporters on his return to the White House from a weekend at the Camp David presidential retreat.

Akhromeyev Examines Changing U.S. Relations

PM2101145391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 91 Second Edition pp 1, 5

[Article by Marshal of the Soviet Union S. Akhromeyev: "On the Basis of Accord and Trust"]

[Text] Recently we have been hearing increasingly frequent expressions of doubt about the correctness of certain important areas of our foreign policy. The question of how the unification of Germany will impact on our security has not been taken off the agenda in society. Another maybe even more acute question—what policy is the United States currently pursuing toward the Soviet Union?—is also being asked no less frequently. Can we hope for the full normalization of relations with it? What position should the Soviet Union adopt toward the crisis in the Persian Gulf region?

To a greater or lesser extent—often sharply and critically—these questions were examined at the recently concluded Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. E. Shevardnadze's surprise statement at the congress that he was resigning as foreign minister exacerbated the situation and caused even greater polemics in society. The questions linked with the unification of Germany, relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, and our stance in assessing events in the Persian Gulf region are natural.

Furthermore, today, when our entire life is being subjected to analysis and savage criticism, the very policy of playing up the successes in any field—as was the case in the field of foreign policy—is giving rise to doubts in many people. Not least because the criticism in the second half of 1990 proved so painful for our Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I.

The radical change in the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policy since 1985, the democratization of our way of life, and our readiness for collaboration and cooperation with all countries and peoples have changed attitudes toward us in the world.

The USSR's new foreign policy, which had taken shape by the second half of 1986, and the defensive Soviet military doctrine adopted in early 1987 made it possible to build our interstate relations in a new way. Their main content now became the practical realization of these fundamental principles: **demilitarization, democratization, and de-ideologization.**

This foreign policy of ours led to major changes in the state and social structure in the countries allied with us in the Warsaw Pact (along with other major domestic factors, of course). This policy of ours—and this must be said frankly today—promoted the unification of the GDR and the FRG to form a united German state.

It became clear to everyone in the world that the USSR's new foreign policy and military activity are not mere chance phenomena. They are for real and for keeps. The Soviet Union proposed that interstate relations with the United States be structured in such a way as to move from confrontation and rivalry to normal relations, collaboration, and, where it is in our mutual interests, cooperation. For some years the Soviet Union has been backing up this line in its practical politics.

At the same time, the Soviet Union undertook major measures to break the deadlock that had formed in the early 80's at talks with the United States and other NATO bloc states on nuclear and conventional arms reduction. This resulted in the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles in December 1987 and the well known accord on strategic offensive arms and other arms during the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and G. Bush in Washington in early June 1990. The attainment of major accords and the rapprochement of the sides' positions on the reduction of Armed Forces and conventional arms in Europe, the elimination of chemical weapons, and other problems became a reality. Contracts ["kontrakty"—possible misprint for "kontakty": contacts] through military channels at all levels between the Armed Forces of the USSR and the United States and other NATO bloc states began, and developed quite extensively.

Military tension and the threat of war declined, in Europe and worldwide. Unilateral arms reductions also became possible. It is no exaggeration to describe everything that was done as a breakthrough in relations between the USSR and the United States and with other countries toward a better situation, toward greater trust.

Iraq's aggression against Kuwait was a real test of Soviet-U.S. relations and the Soviet Union's new foreign policy. Previously, beginning in 1945, in similar situations the Soviet Union and the United States had assessed events in different ways and belonged to opposing groups of countries. In 1990 the situation had changed drastically. Thanks to the USSR's new policy,

our country and the United States were united in condemning the aggression and adopting Security Council sanctions against the aggressor.

How did the United States respond to the Soviet Union's policy? What policy does it pursue today with regard to our country? The facts confirm—and I will seek to prove this—that the United States proceeds on the basis of objective realities and acts, as always, primarily on the basis of its own state interests. Today it could either stand in confrontation with the USSR and keep itself and the whole world in a state of tension—there is 40 years' experience of this struggle, which cost the United States a great deal—or it could establish normal relations. The U.S. Administration has taken into consideration the fact that the changes in the Soviet Union's foreign and domestic policy makes a change in relations with the USSR possible. Today we can state confidently that the United States has chosen the path of normalization of relations with the Soviet Union.

A U.S. interest in nuclear arms reduction has also taken shape. Americans realize that the USSR and the United States alone have modern strategic nuclear forces capable of destroying each other many times over. Even taking into account our great internal difficulties today, it is clear to them that the Soviet Union possesses everything it needs to make autonomous decisions with regard to its foreign policy. Therefore the U.S. Administration is today putting into practice major measures to normalize relations with the Soviet Union, naturally on terms that are to its own advantage.

At talks with us, that country's politicians and military men conduct themselves as serious and responsible leaders who stubbornly, staunchly, and skillfully defend their own interests. It is very difficult to come to terms with them. But once treaties have been signed and agreements reached, they fulfill them. Twenty years of experience in conducting talks with the United States on nuclear and conventional arms reduction confirms that in interstate relations, given a reliable system for the verification of treaties and agreements, they can be trusted. Incidentally, their approach to us is the same.

Thus, in the last three or four years, the mutual intentions of the USSR and the United States to normalize relations have emerged clearly. As we can see, much has been done in this direction. Substantial capital has now been accumulated in the form of better relations, and we must safeguard this capital.

II.

But what policy is the United States actually pursuing with regard to the Soviet Union today? If you analyze it without prejudice or ill will, but at the same time without euphoria or excessive trustfulness—both of which can be encountered in our turbulent society today—then this question can be answered. It is necessary only to disregard the particular and to analyze—objectively and without excess heat—U.S. foreign policy.

It is formulated in two fundamental documents. In U.S. President G. Bush's 20 March 1990 message to Congress, "U.S. National Security Strategy," and in the declaration of the NATO Council session at the summit level in July 1990. In addition, the United States, together with other states, signed three fundamental documents in Paris in November 1990, which say that the states of the North Atlantic alliance and the Warsaw Pact "are no longer adversaries, and will build new relations of partnership and extend the hand of friendship to one another."

In the message to the Congress, the U.S. President indicated that the U.S. "aim is to go beyond deterrence and seek to integrate the Soviet Union into the international system as a constructive partner. For the first time in the postwar period this aim seems within reach." The NATO Council declaration effectively says the same thing. I think that most Soviet people would agree with this aim.

But, at the same time, we can also see something else. President G. Bush's document says: "We (that is, the United States) remain committed to the 'strategy of rivalry.'" Yet this is not a line that integrates the Soviet Union into the international system, but something else. This is a modified—perhaps toned down—line of continuing the arms race.

Take another of President G. Bush's assertions: "Whatever course the Soviets choose in the next decade, the Soviet Union will remain a formidable military power. The United States must continue to have contemporary defenses **which strengthen deterrence** (my stress—S.A.) and reinforce security." The NATO defense ministers also spoke in the same vein at their Brussels session in December 1990.

Finally, President G. Bush and the NATO Council said: "We expect united Germany to remain a member of the NATO bloc..." The NATO military organization in Europe is to be retained in Europe in the nineties. If you consider the United States' quite clear positions whereby it backs Japan's territorial claims to our Kurile Islands and talks of the illegality of the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania as Union republics within the Soviet Union in 1940, with all ensuing consequences, you can conclude that the Soviet Union cannot help but take these U.S. positions into consideration.

Certainly, direct USSR-U.S. confrontation has, we hope, become a thing of the past, the arms race is ending, and ways to collaborate and even cooperate are increasingly being discerned. But along with this, there are also contradictions between the USSR and the United States as great powers.

It has not completely abandoned the policy of securing military superiority over us. One must openly admit that the United States will hardly renounce this policy in the foreseeable future. It accords with its state interests, which are always the most important thing for it. Unfortunately, in our policy we sometimes veer from one side

to the other. This is ruled out in the United States. Its policy is characterized by consistency and gradual development. In fact in its foreign policy, it implements the Russian proverb: "Look before you leap."

Nor will we forget that the United States has never supported our socialist choice and our Soviet system. Even today this stance determines its attitude toward us to a considerable extent.

In spite of everything, abiding by the new course, we must build our relations with the United States in a calm and considered manner, considering the sheer complexity and contradictory nature of these relations, and persistently defending our country's interests in this, and remember that the United States will not do anything for us for nothing and that we must be as pragmatic in our relations with the United States as it is toward us. Achievements must be valued.

In conjunction with other members of the UN Security Council, the Soviet Union and the United States unconditionally condemned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. Effective sanctions were adopted against the aggressor. It is deeply regrettable that all opportunities were not utilized for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and that war has broken out in this dangerous region.

The creation of a European regional security system—the foundation of which was laid in November 1990 in Paris—is of equal importance to us and other European countries. Its creation is also impossible without the United States.

That is why I advocated and continue to advocate the further development and strengthening of Soviet-U.S. relations. I fully admit that, if you consider the full gamut of USSR-U.S. relations, some of my arguments will have to be slightly corrected. But I think that the main ideas that I have cited could be considered in the further development of Soviet-U.S. relations.

III.

A word about German unification, its role and place in the future Europe, and the withdrawal of our troops from Central Europe.

All this for Soviet people is combined in a single question—will the security of our fatherland be ensured against possible German aggression in the future?

I think that it is time for us to realize and accept the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia and Hungary, and subsequently from Poland and united Germany as logical events. The Warsaw Pact military organization has ceased to exist. For any country's Armed Forces, it is always a temporary measure for troops to be present abroad. It cannot become a permanent measure. No country's people will ever agree to another country's troops staying in their territory for a long time unless this is brought about by serious external conditions. This applies equally to Soviet, U.S., and other troops.

The sojourn of other states' troops on united Germany's territory will be authorized for three or four years during the transitional period. Why would they be needed on other states' territory after 1995?

The Warsaw Pact states' leaders have effectively already reached agreement on winding up the Warsaw Pact military organization and on transforming it into a political alliance. I wonder: Why then is the North Atlantic alliance's military organization necessary in Europe? The NATO defense ministers answered this question with exhaustive frankness in December 1990. Their final communique says: "Certain sources of danger and uncertainty persist in Europe. The Atlantic alliance (read: its military organization) will continue to be needed for our common security and stability in Europe. We state our intention to retain effective Armed Forces sufficient to guarantee this security."

Do they once again see the Soviet Union as a source of military danger?

The Soviet Union takes a different view of the situation that has taken shape. The changes in Europe took place in many respects thanks to the USSR's new foreign policy and, if the aim is to create reliable security and establish lasting peace in Europe, this should not be used against the Soviet Union.

When resolving the problem of German unification and determining its future, the interests of the USSR's security were given proper consideration. Treaties and agreements were signed. The whole point now is how they are carried out. At present, both Germany and the United States in Europe are acting with consideration for the Soviet Union's interests. You must remember, however, that how the treaties and agreements between the Soviet Union and Germany are fulfilled also depends on us to a considerable extent. To guarantee them the Soviet Union must, on the one hand, pursue a calm, considered foreign policy in Europe designed to strengthen peace, and, on the other, have the requisite might to ensure that no one is in any doubt as to its ability to defend its interests.

We must consider the real state of Soviet-U.S. relations: The preservation of the NATO military organization as a military force still countering the Soviet Union in Europe and the frequent attempts not to take the USSR's interests into consideration.

Hence we must draw our own conclusions regarding the extent of the military danger for the Soviet Union. The danger for us today resides in the fact that people sometimes try to approach us from a position of strength and sometimes try to persuade or compel us to agree with an unfair policy running counter to our interests. That is why we must possess sufficient Armed Forces to pursue a policy of peace and of defending our country's legitimate state interests. Today, when attacks on the USSR Armed Forces and demands for cuts in military spending and unilateral Army and Navy cuts are increasingly being stepped up (they sometimes acquire an

ostentatiously unfounded character), we should take all this into consideration and act responsibly and circumspectly.

China

Deputy Foreign Minister Receives PRC Envoy

LD1901171191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1640 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—Today I.A. Rogachev [USSR deputy foreign minister] received Yu Hongliang, the PRC ambassador in the USSR, who conveyed an oral message to the USSR president from Li Peng, the premier of the PRC Council of State in connection with the events in the Persian Gulf.

Soviet-Chinese Provincial Air Route Opened

LD1601230691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1231 GMT 16 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[Text] Irkutsk, 16 January (TASS)— Another air-link has been opened between the USSR and China, with the landing of an aircraft from Shenyang at Irkutsk airport. Among the passengers on the MD-82 of the Chinese Northern Air Company were businessmen, scientists, and tourists. An official of the East Siberian department of USSR Civil Aviation said economic and cultural ties between Irkutsk Oblast and Liaoning province are developing intensively.

Accord Signed on Supplying Power Generators

OW1801082991 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1000 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] The Soviet Union and China signed an agreement for the Soviet supply of power generators to the Yingkou Thermal Power Plant in Liaoning Province. The two countries also signed a loan for purchasing the generators.

The Soviet Union will also provide equipment for two large Chinese thermal power plants, one in the vicinity of Beijing and the other located in Nanjing. These power plants will play an important role in improving the power supply in some Chinese regions.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama Visits Moscow

Notes Goals Prior to Visit

LD2101093191 Moscow TASS in English 0903 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents YevgenY Alexandrov and Oleg Polovko]

[Text] "Soviet-Japanese relations have changed for the better over the past year," Alexander Panov, head of the Pacific and Southeast Asian Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, said here today.

In an interview with TASS on the eve of a visit by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama to the Soviet Union, he noted that "General reorganisation in the USSR, its positive perception by the Japanese and greater realism of our policy in the Asian-Pacific region" have helped improve these relations.

The Soviet desire to better assess the interests of its partners and Soviet measures to decrease its military presence in the Far East and the Asian-Pacific region also helped to promote positive changes in relations between the two countries.

Panov believes that these changes prompted Japan to abandon, for the first time over many years, the thesis about a direct threat from the Soviet Union.

"Last but not least, a report about President Mikhail Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Japan played an important role in this process," he noted.

"Although Soviet-Japanese relations are now at an adequately high level, they should be elevated even higher, taking into account changes in the international situation. They should be comparable with the level of Soviet relations with major European countries and the United States," Panov stressed.

He favoured radical changes in politics, trade, economic cooperation, the military sphere and contacts between people.

Asked about problems in Soviet-Japanese relations, Panov stressed that he does not see "reasons in the foreseeable future for a clash between Soviet and Japanese interests".

From the strategic point of view, the improvement of relations with Japan is extremely important to the Soviet Union, he continued.

Panov called the lack of a peace treaty between the USSR and Japan the major restriction on the development of cooperation between the two neighbouring countries. He pointed to "various ideas about how to conclude such a treaty, especially in terms of the territorial problem".

According to Panov, a working group on a peace treaty recently held six rounds of talks. During the talks the two sides concluded that, in principle, it is possible to conclude a treaty and that it should not be limited to current problems but should break ground for future relations.

"As for the territorial question, the sides hold opposite positions, and the present situation indicates that this problem will not be resolved now. This is a living reality, and you cannot close your eyes to it," he noted.

Panov looks to creating new relations for real confidence between the two nations, under which it would eventually be possible to conclude a peace treaty.

"To advance towards these relations, the two sides should make efforts not hinged on any preliminary conditions". Panov expressed regret that "the Japanese policy now hinges many issues on preliminary conditions", which, according to him, cannot yield positive results.

The visit by Nakayama to the Soviet Union, beginning today, will be mostly devoted to preparations for the forthcoming visit to Japan by Gorbachev. According to Panov's assessment, preparations for this important event "are going successfully".

"We are sure that we shall prepare a package of 11 or more documents by the beginning of the visit," he said.

Welcomed by Bessmertnykh 21 Jan

LD2101123991 Moscow TASS in English 1221 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Aleksandrov]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama arrived in the Soviet Union on an official visit today.

He was welcomed at Sheremetyevo-2 Airport, which was decked out in Japanese and Soviet national colours, by his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh and other officials.

Bessmertnykh Hosts Lunch

LD2201130191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1159 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (TASS)—USSR Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh called Soviet-Japanese relations one of "the main components in the world order playing a unique independent role." He was speaking today at a lunch in honor of Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, who is in the Soviet Union on an official visit.

A stable, full-blooded increase in Soviet-Japanese dialogue, the minister stressed, "is not only in the interests of our two countries," it is in the interests of the whole world community that relations between the USSR and Japan should be "a factor in favor of a consolidation of the positive changes in world affairs".

Having stated that "a certain lagging behind" has been seen between the USSR and Japan during recent years, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said that although bilateral dialogue "has not been frozen" its pace has nonetheless "noticeably fallen behind the general headlong dynamic for dismantling the structures and stereotypes of the 'cold war'." Such lagging behind cannot be recognized as normal, he stressed, both sides share a clear understanding on this count.

The USSR and Japan, the minister continued, are now on the threshold of a new chapter in their relations. "The accord on the visit to Japan by the USSR president," Aleksandr Bessmertnykh stressed, "is both a powerful symbol and a clear guideline. The forthcoming summit meeting opens up real opportunities for imparting a fundamentally new quality to relations between the Soviet Union and Japan." At the same time, the Soviet Minister includes among "priority" tasks preparations for M. Gorbachev's visit to Japan, stressing that "the main emphasis of this work" falls first and foremost to the foreign policy departments of the two countries.

Ministers Discuss Gulf, Ties

LD2201123191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1135 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (TASS)—The first round of talks lasting three hours between the heads of the foreign political departments of the USSR and Japan, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and Taro Nakayama, has just ended at the USSR Foreign Ministry villa on Aleksey Tolstoy Street.

As a top diplomat told a TASS correspondent at the end of the conversation, "a substantive discussion was held chiefly about international matters, including the situation in the Asian-Pacific region, the situation on the European continent, the state of Soviet-U.S. relations and, naturally, the crisis in the Persian Gulf."

As Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, who is taking part in the talks, stated in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, a "virtually complete coincidence of appraisals" was established on this matter. The publication is envisaged of a joint Soviet-Japanese statement on the situation in the Persian Gulf.

The Japanese side, Igor Rogachev continued "welcomed our new minister as one of those who created and elaborated the new political thinking in the country's foreign policy, in particular, in Soviet-U.S. relations." Minister Nakayama "reacted well to the statement by his Soviet colleague that the foreign policy of the Soviet Union is immutable and that the USSR will continue its previous course in the international arena." Furthermore, Igor Rogachev said, the head of the Soviet foreign political department stressed that "one of the USSR's top-priority tasks is the development and complete normalization of Soviet-Japanese relations."

Taro Nakayama's visit to the USSR is taking place within the framework of preparations for the first visit by the USSR president to the Japanese islands in the history of Soviet-Japanese relations, which is planned for April this year. It is worth noting that the present talks

are the first meeting at this level in which Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, confirmed the other day by the USSR Supreme Soviet in the post of USSR foreign minister, has taken part.

Bessmertnykh, Japanese Envoy Meet on Relations

OW2001034691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 20 KYODO—New Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh told Japanese Ambassador Sumio Edamura Saturday that Moscow wants to develop closer all-round ties with Japan.

Edamura said he called on Bessmertnykh Saturday, ahead of next week's trip to Moscow by Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama. The meeting was Edamura's first with Bessmertnykh since he took over the Foreign Ministry portfolio from Eduard Shevardnadze on Tuesday.

Bessmertnykh told Edamura that Moscow will maintain its "new thinking" diplomacy, a pledge he made to the Supreme Soviet when he was confirmed as the new foreign minister.

On ties with Japan, Bessmertnykh said Moscow wants to develop closer relations in political, economic and cultural fields.

He said Moscow is taking note of the importance of further developing ties with neighboring nations.

Bessmertnykh said he is attaching great significance to his meeting with Nakayama, scheduled for Monday, noting its importance in relation to preparations for President Mikhail Gorbachev's Japan visit planned for April.

The Japanese ambassador said he, on his part, conveyed the hope that the minister's upcoming talks in Moscow with Nakayama will be fruitful and that they can serve as a basis for the conclusion of a bilateral peace treaty.

Japanese-Soviet talks for the peace treaty and better ties have been deadlocked over disputed ownership of a group of islands north of Japan, occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II.

Solution Urged on Northern Territories Issue

PM2101144591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 5

[Article by Vladlen Sirotkin and Igor Tyshetskiy, scientific associates at the USSR Foreign Ministry Diplomatic Academy: "USSR-Japan: Between the Past and the Future?"]

[Excerpts] Interest in our country is obviously increasing in mutual relations with a Far Eastern neighbor—Japan. From the periphery of public attention this country is gradually moving to a place that suits it. To a considerable degree this change has been promoted by the policy of glasnost, which has lifted the taboo on the discussion of territorial differences between our countries. There has been an interesting change—a question which formerly "did not exist" has become virtually the main one in Soviet-Japanese relations.

Of course, there is nothing surprising in that. The "problem of the northern territories," as it is called in Japan, is the legacy of the long "cold war" period and was generated by confrontational thinking. For corroboration, let us cite I. Stalin, who openly explained to the Soviet people in 1945 that the islands which went to the USSR after the war "will serve not as a means of separating the Soviet Union from the ocean or as a base for a Japanese attack on our Far East but as a means for the Soviet Union's direct link with the ocean and as a basis for our country's defense against Japanese aggression." That was the uncompromising way in which the question was put.

It would seem clear to everyone now that no one intends to attack anyone. Moscow adopted a realistic stance with regard to the Japanese-U.S. "security treaty" while Tokyo in 1990 for the first time since the war deemed it possible to renounce the thesis of the "Soviet military threat." So what is it about? [passage omitted]

Behind the outward, emotional aspect of the problem are concealed far more serious things, to wit, two approaches toward the foreign policies of the USSR and Japan at the end of the 20th century—the old traditional balance of force whereby the "age-old territories" are defended by the Army, and the new, modern balance of interests where it is not the number of weapons, bases, and soldiers which is decisive but financial and economic cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region.

The clash between these two approaches in Russian and Japanese foreign policy began not during the years of perestroyka but at least 100 years ago, on the threshold of the 1904-1905 Russian-Japanese war [when the military lobby was represented by General Kuropatkin and the economic cooperation lobby by finance minister Witte] [passage omitted].

Alas, history is repeating itself. Latter-day "Kuropatkins" do not even want to listen to the "Wittes." Flirting with the reformers in the West, in Germany, they want to preserve the status quo in the Far East.

What perestroyka, what economic reforms in the Soviet Far East can there be if this region today is not only part of the economically undeveloped, closed system that is the entire country but is simply a raw material tributary of its European part and with the military's historically powerful influence on all aspects of life.

All policy in the Far East should be changed, otherwise there can be no question of any real participation in the affairs of the Asian and Pacific region. For the success of the policy of economic reforms in the Far East it is essential to review the actual concept of regional security and to free the Far East from the power of the central

departments and primarily the Defense Ministry. Regional security must be ensured not by the special closed status and special regime characteristic of the Far East today but through the development of its independent market ties and in the long term through integration into a regional economic structure. We must realize absolutely clearly that militarization and closedness are incompatible with the market and with integration. You can have either one or the other.

The present backwardness can be overcome only by expanding normal economic ties with all countries of the region and primarily with the most developed—Japan and South Korea. These ties should have nothing in common with using Far Eastern resources to pay for Japanese and South Korean deliveries and credits to the Union center. Those countries' direct investments in the Far East economy are needed. Incidentally, in their economic development over the past three decades the Japanese have entered a qualitatively new technotronic computer era and they have no great need today of our coal, oil, timber, and other raw material.

Actually, we venture to assert that they have no need either of the "northern territories" as such—Japan long ago renounced the military strong-arm line of its "Kuropatkins" and embarked on the path of the "Wittes," which has brought it far more financial and economic victories than all the sacrifices of the former imperial army to create a "Great Asia." For Japan today the demands for the "northern territories" are rather a question of prestige, one means of asserting itself as a great power.

We believe that we should draw a line under the futile disputes about the "age-old" territories and state publicly that the payment which Stalin demanded and obtained from Churchill and Roosevelt in Yalta for the USSR's entry into the war against Japan is a throwback to the old imperial policy. That deal should be publicly denounced, as the Congress of USSR People's Deputies has done with regard to the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact. After that we must begin talks on a peace treaty (including the fate of the islands) on a new basis, taking into account the fact that Japan, like Germany, can give substantial assistance to the construction of that "Eurasian bridge" of which Count Witte dreamed at the beginning of the century.

Deputy Premier Leads Economic Delegation to ROK

Meets With No Tae-u

LD1801114791 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo January 18 TASS—President No Tae-u of South Korea today received a Soviet Government delegation led by Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Maslyukov, which arrived in Seoul to participate in bilateral economic consultations.

The YONHAP News Agency reports that during the meeting, the president expressed hope that the consultations would map out plans for economic cooperation between South Korea and the USSR.

He said that this cooperation would promote reforms and openness in the Soviet Union and break ground for Korea's unification.

Holds Talks With ROK Official

SK2001060891 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report by station correspondent (Mikhail Kretov); from the "Focus on Asia" program]

[Text] In Seoul, talks are being held between the Soviet Government delegation led by Yuriy Maslyukov, deputy prime minister, and the ROK delegation led Dr. Kim Chong-in, ROK presidential aide.

On 18 January, the Soviet delegation met with ROK President No Tae-u.

(Mikhail Kretov), station correspondent reports from Seoul:

[Begin (Kretov) recording] Above all, the question of granting the Soviet Union a special loan amounting to $3 billion is being discussed, as is the plan to transfer high-technology. The question of building joint enterprises, of developing Siberia and the natural resources of the Soviet Far East districts, of introducing Soviet scientific inventions into the ROK, and of introducing basic scientific achievements will be negotiated.

In addition, the question of exporting clothes, shoes, household electrical appliances, chemicals, and other necessities to the Soviet Union is being negotiated.

The ROK, which has rapidly developed and has economic potential, becomes a suitable partner for our country. Our country needs the cooperation of the ROK especially today. The great increase in the amount of trade shows this. The trade has increased to $1 billion, compared with $1 hundred million four years ago.

The chief delegates of the delegations pointed out the fact that the Soviet Union and the ROK have great potential for cooperation. In our country, the large companies such as Samsung, Lucky-Gold Star, and Hyundai are briskly promoting their products.

Some members of the delegations, including the experts involved, point out that if each country does not understand the laws and traditions in the activities for economic cooperation of the other one, if bureaucratism continues, if stumbling blocks preventing free dialogue are not removed, cooperation between the two countries is not bright.

Economic Planning Board Minister Yi Sung-yun pointed out that economic restructuring and the success of Soviet perestroyka will guarantee the success of our cooperation. [end recording]

In conclusion, station correspondents in Seoul said that we cannot help but agree with his remarks.

$3 Billion Credit Announced

LD2201094891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0355 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 22 Jan (TASS)—The Republic of Korea is to provide the Soviet Union with credits worth $3 billion over three years. This was announced in Seoul today. The corresponding accord has been part of a set of measures for the further development of economic cooperation between the two countries that was agreed as a result of the visit to Korea by a Soviet Government delegation headed by Yuriy Maslyukov, deputy USSR prime minister. According to YONHAP agency, an agreement which defines the provision of the South Korean credits to the Soviet Union is expected to be signed in March this year.

Continued Aid to USSR Pledged

LD2201095591 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo January 22 TASS—"Japan does not intend to deny aid to the Soviet Union, despite some western calls not to render the USSR assistance after the Baltic events," general secretary of the Japanese Cabinet of Ministers Misoji Sakamoto stated here today, the KYODO TSUSHIN news service reports.

Informing Japanese journalists about the government's reaction to the proposals of several "Common Market" countries to suspend aid to the Soviet Union, he said there were "no changes in the cabinet's stand on this score".

Thereby, KYODO TSUSHIN says, Sakamoto Has confirmed the immutability of the Japanese policy of granting "humanitarian aid" to the Soviet Union in the form of food and medicines, as well as "intellectual assistance" in carrying out economic reforms with the help of Japanese experience and know-how.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Delegation Meets Cambodia's Chae Sim

LD2001123791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0705 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Pavel Bogdanov]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 20 Jan (TASS)—Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian National Assembly and member of the Politburo of KPRP [Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee, received on Friday a delegation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, visiting Cambodia.

The SPK agency notes that the Cambodian leader informed his guests about the situation in the country, and spoke about Cambodia's efforts directed toward establishing peace in the region. "The dissolution of the State of Cambodia Government and of its armed forces before elections are held, without specific measures to prevent genocide, is unacceptable," he stressed. Chea Sim accused the opposition of not wanting a settlement by political means, and of striving merely for the overthrow of the current authorities. The Cambodian leader expressed profound gratitude to the Soviet Union for its continued support. He stressed that his country "will continue to strengthen ties of solidarity and cooperation with the USSR and other friendly states."

Also on Friday, before their departure, the Soviet delegation held a news conference stating that in accordance with the policies of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, aid to Cambodia in education and health will continue.

UN Inspection of Cambodian Refugee Camps Backed

BK1701111191 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1230 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] As Phnom Penh radio has said, the Cambodian Government has appealed to the United Nations to dispatch teams to inspect Cambodian refugee camps on Thai territory, camps now under the Khmer Rouge's control. These missions would provide the international community with the opportunity to witness and be convinced that the Pol Pot group's actions remain unchanged from the past, Phnom Penh radio notes. Here are our commentator Aleksey Nikolayev's views.

It is now indispensable that international teams be dispatched to inspect Cambodian refugee camps. This is only to comply with the principle of equality in attitudes adopted toward a Cambodian solution. I would like to recall that the government in Phnom Penh has provided UN colleagues the opportunity to visit Cambodia and study the situation on the spot. At the same time zones under Khmer Rouge's control have so far remained closed to international observers. However, from time to time, reports filtered out from these areas. Regardless of the barrier the Pol Pot group has made efforts to put up, these reports show that the Khmer Rouge leadership, as in the past, still plays with its compatriots' lives. In fact, refugees continue to be hostages of the Pol Pot group. It continues to grab food supplies and other goods of primary necessity sent to refugees through international humanitarian aid networks.

Refugees, starting with young children, have been forced by the Pol Pot group to fight against government troops as cannon fodder. Lately, judging from foreign news agencies' reports, the Khmer Rouge leadership has intensified propaganda among those under its control with the aim of getting the latter to vote for the Pol Pot representatives in the event of an election. Those who dare to disobey would be dealt with.

It is obvious that of the more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees in Thailand, not all are under the control of the Pol Pot group. A number of refugees live in camps controlled by the two other opposing Cambodian groups. These refugees may have led a better life. However, the repatriation of refugees, as part of a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian conflict, still remains an acute problem.

On this issue, the United Nations has put forward an appropriate program where refugees would be temporarily put in so-called neutral camps under the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. After a peaceful solution in Cambodia has been achieved, these refugees would be sent across the border to various UN centers and, afterward, would be allocated places to live permanently. However, the plan—although it looks fine on paper—will undoubtedly face quite a few obstacles when it is implemented. As the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW magazine puts it, the Khmer Rouge do not want to lose control over the refugees. In this case, what should be done?

In my view, the UN can play a major role if this organization dispatches its representatives to refugee camps in Thailand to study the situation on the spot and propose ways to solve the issue. However, the question is: Will the Khmer Rouge allow the UN delegations into their camps? This is the conclusion of our commentator Aleksey Nikolayev.

Near East & South Asia

Saddam's Reply to Gorbachev Appeal Awaited

LD2201072491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By correspondent Viktor Levin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] there is still no official answer from Iraq to Gorbachev's appeal. But, judging from the report by the Iraqi radio, Saddam Husayn has given an indirect answer. If we can trust this broadcast, then Saddam Husayn considers that the Soviet President should appeal not to him but to President Bush, since Bush started aggression, as the statement by Saddam Husayn says, and he must pay for it.

I will make it clear once again, REUTER refers to the Iraqi radio broadcast. That is why we cannot consider that it is an official answer of Saddam Husayn to the address by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. But the form itself which was chosen to express the position of the Iraqi leader—let alone the content—does not bear witness to constructive intentions of Baghdad. This is not the way things are done in diplomatic practice—to make public an answer to an address of a head of state before a person who has issued an address receives an answer. That is why I would dare to say that Saddam Husayn is avoiding a serious conversation. It is a pity. [passage omitted]

Belonogov Assesses Status of Persian Gulf Crisis

Notes Need To 'Localize' Conflict

LD1801165591 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksandr Kanishchev and Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Speaking at a Soviet Foreign Ministry briefing here today, Aleksandr Belonogov drew journalists' attention to the reaction in the world to President Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 17 in connection with the outbreak of war in the Gulf and to Gorbachev's messages to the leaders of the permanent member-countries of the U.N. Security Council and also Arab and some other states. The Soviet deputy foreign minister emphasised that they drew a wide international response.

Belonogov noted that the Soviet Union's continued efforts to prevent a further escalation of the conflict were praised in many countries. Particular note is made of the fact that the Soviet Union keeps maintaining contacts with the Iraqi leadership and that on January 17 the Soviet ambassador to Baghdad conveyed Gorbachev's message to Saddam Husayn on the need to withdraw troops from Kuwait.

According to Belonogov, the world community points out the Soviet Union' consistent line towards the Gulf crisis and the strong desire of the USSR and Gorbachev personally to do everything possible to achieve its settlement by peaceful, political means and avoid a power solution. Public at large also emphasise Gorbachev's call on the world community to take joint actions to localize the conflict.

The Soviet president's appeals to the leaders of Arab, western and other states are received as evidence that "Moscow does not intend to abandon active policy in the Middle East and active role in the future peaceful restructuring of the region". The Soviet leadership's moves inspired confidence that the USSR will remain firmly committed to a comprehensive Middle Eastern settlement.

Belonogov said that Gorbachev and French President Francois Mitterrand conferred by telephone today. They discussed the sitution in the Middle East. Belonogov

expressed firm conviction that the Soviet President would have other contacts with the heads of foreign states today.

Views 'Elaborated' Policy

LD2101074691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Interview with USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov by correspondent Pasko; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Pasko] [passage omitted] I would like to point out the following information. The U.S. press had a very interesting publication that the U.S. Administration began elaboration of its own strategic policy in the Persian Gulf region and Near East for the time after the end of the conflict with Iraq. This issue is now being elaborated. The report is full of details, but I do not want to dwell on them. The fact itself that such a policy is being elaborated is of interest. I asked Comrade Belonogov, USSR deputy foreign minister, if we were doing anything similar.

[Belonogov] We, of course, did not take as our point of departure the fact that the war was imminent. You are right—we, of course, were thinking about the future. We started to think about it a long time ago with regard to the entire region. I would like to recall in connection with this that during his trip to the Near Eastern countries Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze put forward a large package of ideas with regard to the future structure, both a nuclear-free kingdom and a zone free from chemical and other weapons of mass destruction, as well as with regard to a center for elimination of military threat. This was proposed in relation to the fact that confidence-building measures are to be established in this region and that the doctrine of military sufficiency is to be adopted by all states of the region, because the arms race in this region is the fuel which heightens the tension.

We have been elaborating ideas for a long time it is not so easy, however, to implement these ideas because of the existing situation in the region, in particular in conditions of an Arab-Israeli conflict. That is why we are associating these ideas with a thought of holding as soon as possible a conference on the Near East, since it is difficult to talk about the collective security system in conditions of acute hostility between certain states. This is precisely what is so necessary in this region.

[Pasko] So, I suppose, there is a lot for us to do in this region.

[Belonogov] Yes, undoubtedly. There is an active elaboration of measures under way in Arab countries, measures which should be adopted to exclude in the future a possibility of aggressive acts of some countries of the region against the other.

Interviewed on Post-Crisis Policy

AU2101160291 Hamburg BILD AM SONNTAG in German 20 Jan 91 p 5

[Interview with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov by F. Weckbach-Mara; place and date not given: "Soviets Support UN Resolution: Iraq To Blame"]

[Text] [Weckbach-Mara] Does the Soviet Union continue to support the UN resolution against Iraq on the side of the allies?

[Belonogov] In our view, Kuwait has been entitled to armed defense since the beginning of the Iraqi aggression. Thus, it can turn to all states in the world, asking them to help liberate its territory occupied by Iraq. Not the states that are helping now but the Iraqi leadership plunged its country into this war venture, the finale of which we are now witnessing.

[Weckbach-Mara] Will the USSR support the allied troops?

[Belonogov] Not militarily. After the cease-fire we want to participate in the humanitarian aid, however, to reconstruct the country and to continue the peaceful construction projects. The Soviet Union will also draw a lesson from the earlier arms deliveries that one should not overarm certain states. We are in favor of a Middle East conference on the current war zone, in order to turn this region into a nuclear- and chemical-weapons-free zone to prevent the danger of a future war.

[Weckbach-Mara] Will the Soviet Union ratify the treaties on Germany's sovereignty after the resignation of Foreign Minister Shevardnadze?

[Belonogov] Following the extensive discussions of the treaties with Germany there is no doubt that we will ratify the treaties with Germany in the next few weeks because they are the foundation stones for a new Europe.

Akhromeyev Says USSR Not To Enter Gulf War

LD2201091691 Berlin ADN in German 0237 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—In the view of USSR Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, the Gulf conflict will be "fairly protracted." In an interview with NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (Tuesday edition), the military advisor to President Mikhail Gorbachev expresses his conviction that an army with a nine-year war experience cannot "be paralyzed only with air attacks." The war will become increasingly harsher, and also involve land forces should it continue. Even so, one cannot rule out, Akhromeyev said, that "with UN mediation, the war can perhaps be stopped after all." That is a slight possibility now, however. Although war is "easy to start, it is difficult to stop," the military expert said, but solutions acceptable to both sides might be found by the Security Council.

Referring to a possible war involvement by the USSR, Akhromeyev said: "I believe that the USSR standpoint not to participate with its Armed Forces in this conflict has become even more firm." Measures have been taken in military areas along the southern borders of the USSR to strengthen the air defense system. According to Akhromeyev, combat readiness is at a level necessary for a possible war at the borders. "However, all these steps do not mean that the Soviet Union will enter this war," Akhromeyev said.

Military Command Says Warships Moved From Gulf

AU1801141591 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (AFP)—Two Soviet warships in the Gulf have been moved from the region, the Soviet military command said Friday. An unidentified spokesman told the Interindependent news agency that "the two Soviet warships that were in the Persian Gulf have been moved from the region".

The spokesman also said that after the first U.S.-led aerial strikes against Baghdad, Iraq was estimated to have kept "roughly 50 percent" of its anti-aircraft potential.

Moscow has permanently maintained ships in the region, and the warships were not taking part in the U.N.-ordered embargo against Iraq which has the Kremlin's approval.

Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov stressed before the U.S.-led military attack against Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait early Thursday that the Soviet Union would not take part, "even symbolically" in hostilities.

Amid Soviet concern over Israeli participation in the war following Iraq's missile srike against Tel Aviv and Haifa overnight Thursday, the chief of the Israeli consular group in Moscow, Aliyeh Levin, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Friday, according to diplomats.

Spokesman Denies Claims About Advisers in Iraq

LD2201131491 Moscow TASS in English 1249 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Ivanov and Georgiy Shmelyov]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman today denied claims in a Japanese newspaper that Soviet military advisers remain in Iraq.

The claims were made by the SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper, which quoted "international military sources".

Asked to comment on them by TASS, the spokesman said:

"As we have repeatedly declared, all Soviet military advisers have left Iraq. Only 43 Soviet Embassy personnel now remain in Iraq. There are no military specialists among them."

Envoy to Syria Views Evacuations From Iraq

LD2001180691 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Interview with USSR Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Ivanovich Zotov by unidentified correspondents at the Rumaylan oil refinery in Syria; date not given; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] You can meet Soviet people in the most remote parts of Syria, in the Rumaylan settlement, where our oil workers are employed on contract, like a Syrian version of Kushka, the end of the road. Life is not easy. Work and home—that is about all there is. Large towns are far away and the environment is not especially conducive to rest. But, all the same, it is all right. After all, people knew what they were getting into—if it was not for the proximity to Iraq. It is just a few dozen kilometers from here.

The place where we are now is not the calmest on our planet. The territories of three states meet here—Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. The Tigris River flows below, the border runs along it. Iraqi soil, which as the saying goes, is full of the unexpected, begins beyond the Tigris.

Alas, a strike upon Syria, which is in the camp of Arab countries hostile to Iraq, may be expected from there. The oil fields, in this case, are an ideal target, to put the economy out of operation. That is clear even to the uninitiated. In such a situation, terminals filled with crude oil are a grave danger. What about our people? That is a very poignant question.

Aleksandr Ivanovich, do you admit the possibility of the evacuation of members of the Soviet colony in case the outbreak of military operations.

[Zotov] Our colony in Syria is rather large. It is a question of almost 5,000 people. In principle, I do not exclude such a possibility if events take a turn toward war, toward creating a real threat to the safety of our people. Although we do have evacuation plans if worse comes to worst, we are now not dealing with this question in a real sense. We are restricting ourselves to the preparedness of everything required in order to guarantee the maximum safety of our people here.

UN Ambassador Highlights Soviet Peace Efforts

LD1901094491 Moscow TASS in English 0810 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations January 19 TASS—Soviet U.N. Ambassador Yuliy Vorontsov on Friday informed U.N.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of Soviet efforts to stop the Gulf war.

"We informed the secretary-general of President Mikhail Gorbachev's contacts with the U.S. and French presidents, the British prime minister and leaders of other states on the dangerous situation in the Gulf, Vorontsov told TASS after the meeting with Cuellar.

"We also told him about other steps by the Soviet leadership. The Soviet Union continues maintaining contacts with the Iraqi leadership. Over the past few days the USSR repeatedly informed President Saddam Husayn of our position on this question and stressed the need to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait."

The Soviet Union pointed to dangers for Iraq which did not respond to a single proposal on the withdrawal of troops, Vorontsov noted.

It would be possible to return immediately to the question of stopping military operations and looking for ways to settle the conflict politically, the ambassador stressed.

It is necessary, however, for Saddam to declare his readiness to fulfill Security Council resolutions and pull out his troops from Kuwait. Vorontsov emphasised that the United Nations plays an important role in efforts to localise the conflict and to look for its peaceful solution.

Military Experts Examine, Assess War in Gulf

Allied, Iraqi Forces Compared

PM2201144591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Interview with Lieutenant General V. Gorbachev, faculty chief at the K. Voroshilov General Staff Academy, by correspondent N. Buryga; place and datenot given: "...Tanks Will Not Save the Day. Soviet Military Expert Analyzes the Progress of Combat Operations in the Persian Gulf Region"]

[Text] [Buryga] Viktor Vasilyevich, it is well known that allied aircraft returned to their bases on the first day without any losses. Subsequent days have in no way indicated that the Iraqis are capable of effectively hitting air targets. What is the reason for this: Has Iraq's air defense failed to work?

[Gorbachev] There are several reasons here. There was the factor of surprise. Clearly Saddam Husayn simply failed to realize right to the last that he was opposed by a powerful group of forces which could go on the offensive at any time after 15 January. Hostilies were launched at night, which the Iraqis were also evidently hoping to avoid.

...But that was not, I think, the main reason. The Iraqi air defense system was paralyzed by powerful electronic warfare devices, after which air strikes were carried out against sites. Command and control of troops was overwhelmed in the first few minutes. Even Iraqi radio only began broadcasting several hours after the first strike. Time was needed for the first shock to pass. The Iraqis were able to recover and hurriedly fire five Scud missiles on Riyadh and Bahrain only after 90 minutes had passed.

[Buryga] But those missiles disappeared somewhere and everyone spent a long time looking for them.... On returning to base squadron commander Lieutenant Colonel D. Walton told journalists: "Baghdad was lit up like a Christmas tree. We dropped all our ordnance. But we were fired at. A SAM was fired at me, but missed...." But the impotence of the Iraqis is striking: They could have fired only a few missiles. Nothing was heard about their aircraft taking off either. Does this not discredit our equipment in the foreign public's eyes?

[Gorbachev] Yet the second sortie was less successful for the allies. Crippled Jaguars only just made it to the nearest base. B-52 strategic bombers also sustained damaged. We do not, unfortunately, have specific figures on the coalition's losses, as all reports emanating from the region of combat operations are subject to censorship.... As far as the Soviet combat equipment is concerned, it is not so much the problem, I think, as the people operating it. The Iraqis' military professionalism is not, as we can see, up to the mark. Clearly the stress was on rhetoric rather than preparation for a war against a powerful adversary.

[Buryga] What would you regard as the coalition's strengths?

[Gorbachev] The countries of the coalition managed to create a powerful grouping in a short space of time. That is not easy in any respect. This is perhaps the biggest concentration of troops and armaments in the postwar era. Planning has been observable in everything. The command and control of the multinational troops, the powerful and accurate strikes carried out, plus highly efficient intelligence all indicate high degree of professionalism.

[Buryga] The weak points?

[Gorbachev] The shortcomings will show up later if the war drags on. Then the coalition will have to wage large-scale offensives on Iraqi territory. The distance from main bases and the vulnerability of lines of communications will have an impact first. The operational use of troops and their coordination will become more difficult, as the grouping consists of multinational forces whose level of combat readiness varies. The concentration of men and materiel in small areas which are poorly equipped from the engineering standpoint will increase the coalition troops' vulnerability.

[Buryga] But for the time being everthing favors a coalition victory....

[Gorbachev] The outcome of the war has, in my view, been determined by the fact that the coalition forces

seized the initiative and won air superiority from the outset. Husayn has lost his chance.

[Buryga] What chance?

[Gorbachev] He had one opportunity only (militarily speaking)—to mount a preemptive strike on the grouping.

[Buryga] Saddam Husayn has said on radio that the liberation of Palestine, the Golan Heights, and Lebanon are the sacred duty of the Iraqi Armed Forces. He has launched missile strikes on Israel to that end. How effective can these strikes be?

[Gorbachev] Militarily speaking, there is no reason for Iraq to bombard Israel. It is political objectives that are being pursued here. As far as Iraq's combat potential is concerned, according to news agency figures, the several waves of strikes mounted by U.S., British, French, and Kuwaiti planes belonging to the multinational forces have destroyed Iraqi chemical and bacteriological weapons arsenals. For practical purposes all the military airfields and missile bases of the Iraqi Armed Forces have been completely destroyed.

[Buryga] Yet Scuds are exploding in Israel. Where is the guarantee that they will not carry chemical or bacteriological warheads?

[Gorbachev] It is impossible to rule that out completely. However, the following factor must also be taken into account: The use of such warheads is dangerous not just to Israel but to Iraq itself, since the cloud could spread to their territory. Even to USSR territory. Much will depend here on the rapid detection of surviving Iraqi missiles and their prompt destruction.

[Buryga] Views are being voiced in the press that the war has only just begun. The main task will be on the ground. As people know, Iraq is numerically superior to the coalition in terms of tanks. That constitutes an enormous offensive force....

[Gorbachev] It does indeed have more tanks. Soviet combat vehicles, some of them being the new T-72s, make up the bulk of the tank park. It can be said without exaggeration that this tank is regarded as one of the best in the world. It is highly meneuverable and has a high average speed over broken terrain. Its gun is capable of destroying enemy tanks at a range of three km. In terms of aircraft, however, the advantage is definitely on the side of the anti-Iraq coalition forces. The 400 Apaches (the new Apache AN-64 combat helicopters) are capable of nullifying Husayn's tank advantage....

Having no opposition in the air, the coalition will be able to carry out its task one way or another.

[Buryga] There has also been a report that a Soviet military adviser has handed the Americans information on Soviet equipment in Iraq's armory and also revealed the location of air defense complexes. Is that so?

[Gorbachev] I cannot believe that. The reason is that Iraq was a friendly country to us. People would hardly have information on the disposition of men and materiel on its territory. As far as the tactical-technical features of the combat hardware are concerned, there has been no need for this, I think. Technical intelligence and the highly accurate U.S. weapons have played the decisive role here. True, there are many exaggerations here. For example, there has been a report that the missiles have a target accuracy of 30 centimeters . That has the air of boasting. The figure is more like 30 meters.

Scud, Patriot Merits Reviewed

PM2201145991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Interview with Artillery Marshal V. Mikhalkin, chief of the Missile Forces and Ground Forces Artillery, by V. Litovkin; place and date not given—first paragraph is introduction: "Patriot Versus Scud"]

[Text] The mass media describing the combat operations in the Persian Gulf region contain frequent mentions of the Iraqi "Scud" missile complexes firing on Israel and Saudi Arabia and the U.S. "Patriot" complexes which are successfully combating these missiles. Artillery Marshal V. Mikhalkin, chief of the Missile Forces and Ground Forces Artillery, tells our correspondent what these two complexes are like.

The "Scud" missile, Vladimir Mikhaylovich says, is a modernized Soviet liquid-fuel R-300 missile, which we have had since 1962. For its time it was a very effective and reliable user-friendly weapon.

Its range of fire is 300 km. Its high-explosive charge is up to 700 kg. When it hits its target it leaves a crater 1.5-4 meters deep with a diameter of up to 12 meters.

The complex is multitargeted. It is intended for fighting control centers, striking missile positions, weapons bases, combat equipment, regions of troop concentration, and other targets. The missile can be equipped with a nuclear or other warhead. But our country only exports the conventional version.

The complexes in the possession of the Iraqi Army have been modernized by FRG firms. By increasing the capacity of the fuel tanks and with other small modifications the missile's range has been increased to 600 km but here the accuracy has somewhat deteriorated—it is accurate to within 1.5 km.

As for the U.S. "Patriot" air defense missile complex, it is a modern, very effective weapon. The U.S. Army adopted it in the early 80's. It is intended for fighting airborne targets. One feature is that it can fire on several targets simultaneously.

The merits of this complex include the fact that it can strike targets at a range of up to 100 km at a maximum altitude of 30 km and minimum altitude of 1.5 km. The likelihood of striking airborne targets is 0.9.

The guidance system is radiocontrolled and semiautomated radar. The phased array radar antenna and the missiles (there are four of them) are located on a single vehicle.

Since the mid-eighties the U.S. designers have begun to improve the "Patriot" missile complex and to adapt it to fight tactical missiles. Its antimissile fire effectiveness is 0.25. That is it can hit one out of every four missiles.

That is a good, but not particularly good, result. So far, as we know, only five "Scud" missiles have been hit out of several dozen launched. The main difficulty is to detect the launching of a missile. Here the professional skill of the combat crew comes to the fore. It largely determines the fate of the battle.

Allied Success Evaluated

PM2001175091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 4

[Interview with Candidate of Military Sciences Major General G. Zhivitsa, deputy chief of a directorate at the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Center for Operational and Strategic Studies, by correspondent V. Litovkin; place and date not given: "How Professionals Wage War: Soviet Military Expert Analyzes the Course of Hostilities in the Persian Gulf Region"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Zhivitsa] By using the surprise factor the United States was able almost completely to take out Iraq's air defense system and command and control system, thereby disrupting the operations of its Armed Forces groupings, and, by means of strikes against airfields, to gain total air superiority and inflict strikes on missile complexes, stocks of military hardware, weapons, ammunition, and fuel and lubricants, and a number of enterprises in the military-industrial complex.

In so doing the allied forces, while achieving substantial military results, have sustained minimal losses. Which testifies to their very high level of readiness.

These results can be explained not only by the effectiveness of the comprehensive use of air and ground-based electronic countermeasures in operations. This was possible thanks to the comprehensive nature of the Americans' information about specific Iraqi weapons systems and their tactical and technical specifications and combat employment characteristics. Using this information, the American command has in the last two months carried out a series of organizational and technical measures and special exercises at testing ranges in Britain, the FRG, and France, where they tested and evaluated the effectiveness of combat employment of the U.S. Air Force in neutralizing Iraq's air defense system.

On the basis of the results of these exercises, rapid and effective modifications were made to weapons systems, primarily those designed for use against antiaircraft missile complexes, and the tactical methods used in carrying out combat tasks were improved. Additional adjustments and reprograming were carried out on all air and missile systems involved in the first strike, taking into account the latest data from radio and electronic intelligence in the region.

In the air defense penetration and command and control disruption wave, more than 40 cruise missiles, F-117A Stealth aircraft, about 20 EF-111 and F-4E electronic warfare aircraft, and some 150 tactical and carrier-based aircraft were used. In the strike wave, there were some 60 cruise missiles, more than five B-52 bombers and a group of reconnaissance aircraft, and some 400 tactical and carrier-based aircraft.

There have been several such strikes. We already know the results. At the same time, I would like to point out that reports that in the first massive strikes more than 18,000 tonnes of bombs were dropped on the Iraqi forces' positions are greatly exaggerated. By a factor of two or three. Perhaps in order to exert psychological pressure.

Our specialists have calculated that if absolutely all the allies' aircraft had taken part in the raids, they could not have taken more than 8,000-10,000 tonnes of munitions into the air. [passage omitted]

I would like, however, to warn readers against overestimating the anti-Iraq coalition's initial successes. The Iraqi Army's combat potential is still quite high. Its main Armed Forces—or rather, ground forces—groupings, reserves, and missile and artillery units have not been destroyed, as is indicated by the 20 missile launches against Israel and Saudi Arabia. The war could be protracted, and could result in significant casualties on both sides. Incidentally, Iraq has already shot down several aircraft, including an "invisible" F-117.

[Litovkin] So you say that the fighting will not end in the next few days?

[Zhivitsa] Correct. I think it is premature to talk about victory for the coalition forces. The war could drag on. It cannot be ruled out that given certain circumstances several more Arab countries could side with Iraq, and that the oilfields and oil reserves in the zone of hostilities could be blown up, and then new complications will arise. But I would not wish to speculate as yet.

Commentaries Review, Appraise War in Gulf

Israeli Involvement Viewed

PM1801174191 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed commentary in a TASS report under the general headline "Conflagration Growing, Blood Being Shed": "The Conflict From Within"—first two paragraphs are TASS report]

[Text] Early Friday morning Iraq made a missile strike against Israel. Eight missiles exploded on Israeli territory, in particular in residential districts of Tel Aviv and Haifa. According to a statement by an Israeli Army official spokesman, they were missiles with conventional warheads filled with explosives. Chemical weapons were not used against Israel. There were no fatalities, but 12 people were injured. Several dozen city dwellers were hospitalized because they had injected themselves with atropine without waiting for the chemical alarm signal.

Citing a Pentagon spokesman, the U.S. NBC-TV company reports that Israel is preparing to respond to the Iraqi shelling of its territory. NBC reports that the spokesman believes that the response will take the form of a missile strike against Baghdad. "Israel possesses missiles capable of hitting targets at a distance of 700-1,100 miles and will not use aircraft," the spokesman for the U.S. military department said.

Irina Zvyagelskaya is a leading scientific associate at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences and a specialist in problems of the Near East.

She agreed to comment on Israel's reaction to events in the Persian Gulf on the basis of a business trip to Tel Aviv, which she has just concluded.

"In connection with the situation in the Gulf, sentiments in favor of making a strike against Iraq were prevailing in Israel. This option was being advocated both in political circles and among academics. At the same time, Israeli citizens declare that they themselves would not want to get involved in such a conflict, for it would bring about an abrupt regrouping of forces in the Arab world and transform the Arab-Arab confrontation into an Arab-Israeli one.

"But it seems to me that the cost of such a military solution has not been weighed sufficiently. It is easier to start than end a war, I was told by Mordekhay Gur, former chief of General Staff of the Israeli Army. He was probably the only prominent figure among those whom I met in Israel to be aware of the danger of war. The general emphasized that what is needed for victory over Iraq is air superiority coupled with high ground forces maneuverability on Kuwaiti territory proper. In his opinion, the U.S. Armed Forces have no experience of a blitzkrieg, like the German tank divisions, for example, had during World War II.

"Given the present situation in the Gulf, the prospects for peace talks between the Arabs and the Israelis struck me as gloomy. Growing alienation and a reluctance to have anything to do with the Palestinians, particularly in connection with the PLO's support for Iraq—this is the mood in Israeli society. The country's leadership does not intend to hold talks with their leaders and, what is more, a number of moderate Palestinian figures have been incarcerated. Certain right-wingers in Israel even advocate the physical annihilation of the PLO leadership.

"Israelis are concerned that the United States, in exchange for the support being given by Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Egypt, will be forced to put some pressure on Israel. Their concern is also aroused by the fact that the closeness and parallelism of the courses of Moscow and Washington with regard to the events in the Gulf might later move also into the sphere of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"In this connection a great deal was said, particularly at the Israeli Foreign Ministry, about the need to restore diplomatic relations with Moscow. In my view, it is a question of definite political calculations. The Israelis' persistence with a view to restoring diplomatic relations with the USSR marks an attempt to break the linkage of this step (on which Moscow always insisted) with the prospect of the development of the peace process in the Near East and, accordingly, with the Israeli position on this question.

"The experts in Near East problems with whom I have met in the United States are probably more concerned about the postcrisis situation in the Gulf. In their opinion, the crisis will nonetheless be resolved, but they are concerned about a manifestation of what they call new Arab nationalism.

"These nationalists are seeking their own path at a new historical turn of development. To a certain extent Iraq's aggression is a reflection of such a search. Of course, from the viewpoint of international law it is a challenge and a gross violation of all accepted norms. But you can also detect behind it an attempt to overcome some kind of inferiority complex and to become established on equal terms with others in a rapidly changing world."

Scenarios for Ending War Eyed

PM1801201391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Commentary by captain E. Fedoseyev: "This Was Day One..."]

[Text] So, the first day of the war in the Persian Gulf is over. Massive air strikes by the anti-Iraq coalition showed that the use even of conventional weapons can have a destructive force comparable with the force of nuclear weapons. It was reported that Basra's mighty fortifications, which were being erected throughout the Iran-Iraq conflict, and many other military targets were destroyed in just a few hours.

It must, however, be pointed out that not only the might of the weapons has grown. The level of political thinking in the world has also risen. Despite the start of combat operations, many politicians believe that the situation is not irreversible, and that a possibility of ending the conflict exists at the present stage—but on the condition that Iraq still fulfills the world public's demands and withdraws its troops from Kuwait. Now that it is a question only of liberating Kuwait, there is still a chance of ending the combat operations. But if the coalition's

aim becomes the total destruction of Saddam Husayn's regime, then the war will more than likely last until victory for one of the sides.

Combat operations by ground units on the first day were confined just to a small tank operation by the multinational force to destroy Iraqi artillery batteries, after which the tank units returned to Saudi territory. Why? Maybe the U.S. military command does not rule out talks with Saddam Husayn?

But the hopes for such an outcome are very small. Even after the start of combat operations S. Husayn addressed the Iraqi people and, announcing a "great war," promising "imminent victory." On what is the Iraqi leader counting?

In the opinion of many observers, Arab nationalism is S. Husayn's strongest trump. Given any outcome of the military clash with the troops of the multinational force, S. Husayn hopes to remain the national hero of the Arabs, the greatest since medieval times—even if the price that has to be paid for this is many thousands of lives of ordinary Iraqis.

The Iraqi leader also has other cards in reserve—the Israeli one, for example. A missile strike has already been made against Israel. But this is not enough for Husayn. He wants to draw Jordan into the conflict and spread the conflagration of military conflict to the whole of the Near East. True, Jordan is being cautious. It has so far confined itself just to a statement by an official spokesman, who declared that "the country's leadership and people condemn the brutal, sudden attack to which fraternal Iraq was subjected."

Israel, too, has shown restraint. Despite the Iraqi missile strikes, the Israeli Army has so far refrained from combat operations. In this situation the United States will seek with all its might to localize the military conflict and keep Israel from armed interference in the events. At the same time, both political and military measures are being taken: The destruction of those surviving Iraqi "surface-to-surface" missiles, which are capable of reaching the territory of the State of Israel, and of aircraft.

THE NEW YORK TIMES reported: "Bush has moved practically the entire might of the country's nonnuclear forces into the Gulf region." We have learned of statements by Pentagon officials, who have declared that bombing raids might last a month. The effectiveness of this method of warfare is very great.

The massive strikes by the multinational force are having a demoralizing effect on the Iraqi Army. According to a MENA report, an Iraqi military unit numbering 50 tanks surrendered and proceeded in an organized manner to an Egyptian troop disposition. There have also been cases of desertion. According to a statement by M. Barzani, one of the leaders of the Kurdish movement, Kurds are quitting the Iraqi Army en masse.

Over the next few days the multinational force will evidently continue the massive air strikes, with limited use of ground units. This conduct in the war will make it possible to preserve as many personnel as possible—which will make it possible to divert attacks from President G. Bush, supreme commander in chief of the U.S. Armed Forces, and increase his triumph in the event of a favorable development of events.

Day one is over, but, unfortunately, it is not the last day.

Continued Diplomatic Efforts Urged

PM2101131591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 1

[Article by N. Yefimov: "It Is Not Peoples Who Begin Wars..."]

[Text] That inhuman and sinister word—war—has again been heard and instilled terror. To our great regret hostilities have begun in the Persian Gulf region. To our great regret because war, any war, means blood and death and does not distinguish between right and wrong.

The efforts of many countries, ours included, to avert the military collision were not, alas, crowned with success. M.S. Gorbachev's final night-time attempt to avert disaster, to make S. Husayn listen to reason, to give him a last chance of withdrawing his troops from Kuwait, thus saving peace, calm, and people's lives, did not produce a result either.

It looks as though S. Husayn has lost the ability to assess soberly what is happening, to weight up his opportunities soberly. He has made a choice—the military one. That is his fault and his fault alone.

But here is the terrible thing. You probably already know. In just the first day of the war twice as much explosive was dropped on Iraq as was dropped during the notorious attack on Dresden, which took 100,000 lives. Or, to translate that into the language of the nuclear age, in one day one and one-half "Hiroshimas" were exploded in Iraq.

We are assured from the pages of newspapers and the television screens that the accuracy of the bombs and missiles is simply amazing. Probably it is. But however high this degree of accuracy the bombs and missiles are not falling on the heads of the true culprits. Not on those who seized a foreign country, flouting all civilized norms, and then arrogantly ignoring the demands of the world public.

Weapons, Machiavelli wrote, should be used as a last resort when other means are inadequate. Henceforth it is for historians to decide whether all means had been exhausted and whether it was indeed the turn of the last resort.

The bombs are dropping on Iraqi cities. Grief, we cannot yet surmise on what scales, erupted into Iraqi homes on the night of 17 January. The Iraqi people are not to

blame. They were not consulted when the decision was taken to invade Kuwait. It has long been known that wars are declared by old men but fought by young men, paying with their lives. With today's technology, which delivers bombs right on target, the country's entire civilian population is paying for the leadership's arrogance, errors, and adventures.

Our sympathy is with ordinary people of Iraq, with the ancient people inhabiting the land which was one of the cradles of civilization. What will happen to them tomorrow? Anything is possible. That is why it is so important, since the inconceivable has happened, to try to limit the conflict, to prevent it from becoming fiercer, spreading to other countries and territories, and harm other peoples. Ideally to stop the conflict. Perhaps this time diplomats will be more successful and Baghdad will be more understanding. We shall not cast doubt in advance on the feasibility of such a step. Or of others steps which, of course, would not bring back the dead but would stop this sorry list from growing.

But while the war is proceeding and television is showing it in color in every home, the bombs are being delivered to their targets with striking accuracy.

Iraqi Aims Analyzed

LD1901140691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Interview with commentator Vladimir Pasko by unidentified station announcer; place and date not given]

[Text] [Announcer] Iraq is still persisting in her attempts to spread the war it has provoked to the entire Middle Eastern region. What does my colleague Vladimir Pasko say about this? What is your view?

[Pasko] I agree with you in the assessment of the situation. It indeed remains very dangerous, and this is precisely because of Iraq's attempts to spread the war to the entire Middle Eastern region. They are simply evident. It is precisely the aim, this aim, that is being pursued by the provocative strikes against Israel.

You, and probably our listeners, know what anxiety in the world has been aroused by yesterday's missile strike against Israel. The leaders of the United States, Britain, and other countries have called on the Israeli leadership to maintain restraint. The USSR Foreign Ministry stated in particular that the Soviet Union hopes the Israeli Government will not take a road leading to an even greater aggravation of the situation in the Middle East. During the past day the USSR president sent a message to the heads of Arab countries, expressing the hope that they would not give in to emotions and would not allow themselves to be drawn into plans to cause a new military confrontation with Israel to flare up.

At the same time, the Soviet Union has again called on the Iraqi leadership to display a sense of realism, to realize that its actions, starting with the invasion of Kuwait, are only resulting in casualties and destruction for the Iraqi people and in new calamities for the entire region.

[Announcer] But how the situation will develop is so far not clear, it seems to me. First of all, there is no complete and absolutely reliable general picture, either regarding the political alignment in the Middle East or with regard to military operations.

[Pasko] I agree with you about that also. So far, we can only say that the correlation of the confronting forces to date remains equal. The strategic initiative and the suddenness of the first strike by the multinational forces, which are mainly made up of professionals—this is essentially a professional Army—have played their role. They have succeeded in almost fully knocking out Iraq's antiaircraft defense system and facilities for commanding and controlling troops, winning, as is believed, complete superiority in the air.

At the same time, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that military experts are warning against overestimating the first successes. We ourselves are sensing this from the information. But in this connection, in order to refer to an authority, I would like to draw your attention to the views of Zhivis, deputy head of a directorate of the Center for Operation-Strategic Research of the General Staff of the USSR of the Armed Forces, which was published in yesterday's IZVESTIYA. That is to say, this pubication is interesting even because of the fact that our military is nevertheless very attentively looking into and following the situation.

He notes that the combat potential of the Iraqi Army is still fairly high. The main groupings of its Armed Forces—to be precise its ground troops, the reserves, and the missile and artillery units—have remained unrouted.

[Announcer] By the way, this is also shown by today's shelling of Israel.

[Pasko] Quite correct. The war, in the view of this Soviet military expert, can be long and drawn out, entailing considerable human casualties on both sides. Incidentally, the remark by Zhivis to the effect that an American F-117 Stealth bomber was among the aircraft shot down by the Iraqis has drawn attention. What is also noteworthy is that the expert also notes that in certain circumstances a number of Arab countries may take Iraq's side.

[Announcer] That is exactly what we started from.

[Pasko] Yes, quite correct. The alignment is not altogether clear. Not everything is unequivocal. Views are changing, and attitudes toward this crisis are changing. Nevertheless, such a danger remains. It is for that reason that these provocations are so dangerous, especially now, and it is obvious how deliberate these provocations by Iraq against Israel are.

The only thing that we can say quite definitely now is that however further events unfold, the responsibility for

what is going on in the Persian Gulf area, just as it is for the attempts to spread this conflict, is borne by Iraq. Saddam Husayn continues to refuse to carry out the UN Security Council resolution and vacate the territory of Kuwait—which I stress is a member of the United Nations organization—he seized. I want to stress that the UN resolution, under which the use of military force on Iraq was begun, was adopted unanimously by the Security Council. This is very important. But we will hope that the international community will show, and will continue to show, firmness in this matter. At present, everything is pointing precisely to that, and this strengthens hope that justice will nevertheless triumph.

[Announcer] Thank you, Vladimir. This was a conversation with our commentator Vladimir Pasko.

Morality of Gulf War Viewed

LD2101220391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Commentary by political observer Aleksandr Zholkver]

[Text] After the euphoria in the United States caused by the first days of heavy raids on Iraq, when pilots were saying that they had all but won the war, sobering up has started and now the Pentagon itself warns that military action can last for a long time.

In these conditions the issue of the overall purpose of this war is emerging as an increasingly acute one. If one listens to participants in the anti-war rallies that are being staged in many towns of the United States, the FRG, and some other countries, one gets the impression that Near East oil is the cause of everything. After all, the slogan, No blood for oil, is one of the most popular at the rallies. The correctness of such a slogan itself is beyond doubt.

Still, one would believe that this wording, although correct, is simplistic. First of all, let us not overrate the importance of Kuwaiti oil for the United States itself. The U.S. President has just given instructions to sell U.S. oil on the world markets in order to keep prices down. Secondly, among the 28 states whose Armed Forces are engaged against Iraq now, most are countries who do not use Kuwaiti oil at all.

Moreover, one would think that it is a question of moral and political categories rather that material ones. This was very well put by the leader of a traditionally peace- and freedom-loving state which is situated quite far from the Persian Gulf, yet which, nevertheless, has taken a very interested part in a peaceful settlement to the conflict. I have in mind Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the Mexican president. He has expressed deep regret as regards the victims of the war; however, he has stated very unequivocally that it is a question of the first confrontation after the cold war has ended, and this should not dissipate hopes for a future based on respect for international law.

Indeed, one is faced with an unprovoked aggression against Kuwait, a small neighboring country. Whatever attitude one holds toward the state's monarchical system and the Kuwaiti shaykhs' wealth, all this cannot serve as a pretext for occupation. Therefore, it is precisely now, when the principles of law, not those of force, seem to have started asserting themselves in international relations, that the world community's response has been so unanimous. The aggression should be halted and the aggressor punished. Many people draw quite correct parallels. If in the 30's the world community had taken a resolute stand on the Hitler aggression, it could have been suppressed, and, therefore, the world war and, incidentally, considerable losses of the German people itself, could have been averted. I have seen deliberations of this kind in French and German newspapers recently. But what is true is true: since the war has started, one should do everything possible to halt the aggression as soon as possible and to ensure that law and peace prevail.

Israeli Restraint Lauded

PM2201150591 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 91 Second Edition p 4

[Article by Yuriy Glukhov "Viewpoint": "Will Reason Prevail?"]

[Text] Everything would seem to be right and proper—justice is triumphing. International law, having been flouted, has been protected. Iraq, having committed aggression against Kuwait, is being punished.

But blood is flowing and each day of the war means new casualties and human suffering and fresh destruction. Why did diplomacy not work? Why did the logic of persuasion prove powerless, why was it necessary to resort to weapons—the most most murderous argument in a direct sense of the word? Was everything done to avert this?

Everything, I think, or almost everything. Modern history has not known such intensive and multilateral efforts to avert war. From the very beginning of the Iraqi aggression, the Soviet Union expended the maximum of energy to resolve the acute international conflict by peaceful means.

The many appeals to Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn at the level of the USSR president and the foreign minister and via the president's special envoys who traveled to Baghdad followed one after the other.... They reflected the world community's opinion and were designed to avoid bloodshed, to show how grave the danger of war was, and restore Kuwaiti independence by political means.

Unfortunately, the efforts of the UN Security Council and individual states and politicians failed utterly. Perhaps this was due to the irrational thinking of the Iraqi leader. Perhaps it was due to the stereotyped indifference toward UN decisions which has come about for example

during the protracted Arab-Israeli conflict. After all, Israel has presumed to ignore the appeals of the international community. But I think that the exception should not become the rule and diplomatic failures should not lead to the rejection of political means of a settlement.

Conversely, the more powerful the conflagration of war becomes, the more energetic the efforts to extinguish it must be. That is why in the first few minutes of the explosion, the Soviet leadership appealed to the leadership of a number of influential countries, including France, China, Britain, Germany, Italy, and India and the heads of the majority of Arab states. The Soviet Union urged joint and parallel steps to localize the conflict and prevent its dangerous spread. Contacts with Iraq were renewed. The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium issued an appeal to parliamentarians in all countries.

In his 17 January 1991 statement, President M.S. Gorbachev of the USSR gave an assurance that "the country's leadership will take all measures to bring about the earliest cessation of the war and the restoration of peace in cooperation with other countries and the United Nations." The USSR's peace-loving actions are evoking a response. Many countries advocate the resumption of the search for a political settlement. The antiwar movement is broadening.

It is very important to localize and nullify the military confrontation. After all, there is still the danger that the conflict may develop into a new Arab-Israeli war. It could be provoked by Iraq's strikes against Israel.

Iraq's random missile attacks against Israeli territory, which have no real military purpose, could detonate the situation in the Near East which is already filled with an explosive mixture of unresolved problems and age-old hostility. In these conditions the Soviet Union has appealed to Iraq and other countries in the region to show a sense of realism and responsibility. We hope that the Israeli Government will also show the necessary restraint in its turn. Tribute must be paid to the fact that it has kept calm so far.

The stance taken by the world community toward Iraqi aggression reflects the new realities of the international situation and the changed political climate. Indeed, the aggressor cannot and must not enjoy the fruits of his aggression. It is necessary to be consistent and create a mechanism for applying the same principles to similar situations, however. A precedent has been set in which the aggressor is punished but the present option must not be the norm. Unfortunately, only strength is triumphing. But reason must prevail.

Soviets Volunteer To Support Iraq in Gulf War

PM1801164591 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 5

[Article by Ye. Mikitenko under the general headline "Fire Spreading, Blood Being Shed": "Volunteers, Troubled Hearts"]

[Text] As is well known, the Congress of Russian People's Deputies has adopted an appeal to the president and Supreme Soviet of the USSR not to allow the Soviet Union to become involved in the military conflict in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, since the beginning of August the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow has received over 4,000 applications and letters from Soviet citizens asking to be sent to Baghdad as volunteers on Iraq's side in the war against the United States and its allies in the anti-Iraq coalition. The largest number of applications has come from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Tallinn, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the Central Asian republics. Ethnically speaking, the largest groups among the "volunteers" are Russians, Azerbaijanis, and Belorussians. One Jew has also submitted an application: He asked the embassy to accept 700 rubles from him for an "Iraq defense fund." There are no women among the volunteers. The ages of those expressing a desire to go to Iraq range from 17 to 66. The applicants include people of various religious faiths and professions. It should be noted in particular that there have been several applications from retired military personnel, including a major who once served in the rocket troops and a former KGB staffer who is now a pensioner.

The main reasons prompting people to register as volunteers to fight on Iraq's side are the desire "to repulse U.S. aggression" and "protect Muslim shrines from the infidels."

In the words of Dr. Ghalib al-Tamimi, counselor at the Iraqi Embassy, many of the Soviet specialists previously evacuated from Iraq have been asking to return to work there, as have people who worked in Baghdad in the 70's and 80's.

"Of course, we do not intend to issue visas to Soviet volunteers to enter Iraq," Dr. Ghalib stated, "and we regard their applications merely as evidence of the solidarity of many Soviet people with the Iraqi people and a manifestation in full measure of the political pluralism in Soviet society."

In the words of a staffer at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Moscow, the mission has received several thousand applications from Soviet young people wanting to fight for the liberation of Kuwait.

Afro-Asian Solidarity Group Issues Gulf Statement

LD1801155891 Moscow TASS in English 1510 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—The statement issued today by the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee discribes the Gulf war as terrible and irreparable event. "The Soviet Union," the document says, "has done everything it could to prevent war and has persistently warned world public opinion about its negative consequences."

"The Iraqi leadership, which committed an act of aggression against the neighbouring Arab state of Kuwait and which refused to comply with the demands of the world community, bears the main responsibility for what has happened. The Iraqi population is now actually a hostage of adventurism".

"The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee urges the belligerents to cease hostilities. Iraq must announce the immediate withdrawal of all its troops from Kuwait. The United States and its allies must confirm that they will stop all hostilities as soon as such a statement is made".

"The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee is profoundly grieved by the loss of human lives and expresses its sympathy to the Arab population affected by military actions. It also expresses the hope that common sense will prevail over ambitions".

The statement expresses the conviction that a settlement of the Gulf crisis, if reached, will help solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, primarily the Palestinian issue. The document fully supports the idea advanced by the U.N. secretary general on January 15, 1991, and expresses the hope that all existing or potential aggressors in the Middle East will draw appropriate conclusions without delay and will make it possible to turn this region into a zone of peace and stability.

Gorbachev Sends Message to Libyan Leader

LD2101142691 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received a message on 17 January from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The message states:

Following our receipt of information about U.S. preparations for a military operation in the Gulf region, information received an hour before the expiry of the deadline, we immediately contacted the U.S. leadership and asked it to delay the operation for one or two days so that we could carry out a final attempt to persuade Saddam Husayn of the abosolute need for him to start withdrawing his forces from Kuwait.

Unfortunately, while we were still making contacts with Washington, the operation began. Therefore, I addressed an urgent appeal to Saddam Husayn, asking him to declare speedily and decisively the withdrawal of Iraqi forces. We also appealed to him to resort to reason, and to consider the supreme interests of his own people and those of other peoples, and thus take the only saving step.

I believe that our interest in the prevention of an escalation of the Gulf conflict, which continues to threaten, with untold consequences, demands also the adoption of speedy steps on your part to influence the Iraqi leadership. Naturally, all of us must show concern for urgently containing the conflict and preventing its grave escalation. We must also work to find ways to stop any expansion of military operations, both inside and outside Iraq.

The brother leader of the revolution also received another verbal [as heard] message from President Gorbachev on 18 January. It states: I address this message to you, at this crucial moment to the fate of the region and that of all Arab peoples, following the start of military operations, undertaken because of Iraq's refusal to halt its aggression against Kuwait.

Iraq has carried out a series of missile strikes against the Israelis. The aim of this operation is completely clear, namely to divert attention from the question of Saddam Husayn's responsibility for the occupation of an independent Arab state to the question of nonsolution of the Arab-Zionist conflict. This constitutes a flagrant attempt to expoit the tense feelings of the Arabs, and a clear intention to incite them to inflame the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Since the start of the Kuwaiti crisis, we have pointed out on more than one occasion that this issue cannot be solved by creating another issue. This would only create a threat to the peoples of the region, because it would make the conflict more complex.

In this extremely difficult situation I call upon you to use our wisdom, and thus adopt a wise, balanced, responsible attitude. It is very important to refrain from taking any wrong or unsafe steps. Our call for self-restraint does not mean any misunderstanding on our part, or that we do not appreciate the urgent need to find a just solution to the Middle East issues, of which the Palestine question is the most important.

This objective has occupied and continues to occupy a place of priority in our foreign policy. There are no differences of opinion between us and the Arabs that the Israelis shoulder a principle responsibility for the failure of making any progress toward the settlement of this conflict. But any attempt in these critical moments to [word indistinct] with the Palestine question, will not contribute—indeed, will complicate further—the horizons with regard to solving this question.

After the retrieval of Kuwait's independence, which is the priority objective, we intend to intensify our efforts, jointly with the Arabs, to achieve a tangible progress toward solving the Middle East question. We are determined on this, and will insist that the United States, the Israelis, and the other countries take a constructive stand toward this question.

Yesterday, 20 January, the brother leader of the revolution received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev informing him of the contents of the message he sent to President Saddam Husayn. The message states:

If the Iraqi president declares the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, we will propose the halting of

military operations. It should be understood that this cessation of operations should be reciprocal by both sides. This initiative stems from our concern to protect human life, and to avoid any consequential losses to the country and to the entire region.

IZVESTIYA Interviews Libyan Leader on Gulf

PM1801223191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Report by correspondent V. Skosyrev: "Revelations of the Libyan Leader—Al-Qadhdhafi Would Like to Speak in Red Square"—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] As already reported, the Libyan leader M. al-Qadhdhafi has indirectly approved of the allied troops' action against Iraq but has urged them to confine their actions to the territory of Kuwait. A few hours before the start of military operations M. al-Qadhdhafi met with Soviet journalists in Tripoli. The report on that meeting by IZVESTIYA's special correspondent is published below.

Tripoli—Whereas a number of Arab states are still continuing to seek a formula acceptable to all, which would help to end the bloodshed in the Persian Gulf, the Libyan leadership seems to believe that the Soviet Union alone can save the world. At any rate, Colonel M. al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, while assuring us of the immutability of his friendly feelings toward the Soviet people, rained down reproaches on Moscow for "refraining" from resolving the problem instead of actively intervening in the conflict, maybe even by military means.

This extraordinary opinion was expressed to correspondents from IZVESTIYA, the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and IAN in a spacious bedouin tent pitched in downtown Tripoli next to colonial-style stone detached residences. It was explained to us that in the tent the founder of the Jamahiriyah feels free, for it reminds him of the nomadic life in the desert—a life close to his heart. Today, however, al-Qadhdhafi's thoughts were occupied with war.

He believes that peace in the Gulf region is now collapsing because the USSR no longer plays the role of a counterweight to the other superpower. Under these conditions the USSR must advance a new initiative and champion peace, trying to secure an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait. Our fault, so it turns out, is that the USSR allowed the West to do whatever it thought fit close to its borders and permitted a slide toward disaster. The USSR will, all the same, be forced to intervene in the future, but the cost of that interference then will be twice as high.

We asked the Libyan leader why he discounts Moscow's peace efforts at the United Nations, not to mention the missions of the USSR president's special representatives who visited Iraq and other Arab states last year in the hope of averting a skirmish.

The reply to this is that previously the USSR struggled for peace far more actively. In 1958, for example, after the collapse of the Baghdad Pact and the revolution in Iraq, the USSR helped to stop the West's military interference.

There is no denying that under the protective umbrella of Moscow, which was competing with Washington for influence in Third World countries, many of their leaders felt more comfortable. Now we have a different approach, and the colonel does not like it at all. The USSR has lost confidence in itself, although it possesses a military potential tens times greater than the U.S. potential, he claims.

Al-Qadhdhafi is convinced that we must regain our former global role. This is so important that he would like to go out into Red Square and deliver a speech to Soviet people in order to boost morale, which is quite bad in our country.

As regards the policy of Al-Qadhdhafi himself on the Kuwaiti question, it consists in the following: Libya is with Kuwait against Iraq and with Iraq against America. True, the disagreements with America are not confined to the conflict in the Gulf, for the United States still counts Libya as a state which supports terrorism. This, too, was touched on in the conversation.

Terrorism, the way the Americans understand it, is the peoples' struggle for liberation and against imperialism, came the answer. Libya supports this struggle, which is why it gets accused. In actual fact, the United States engages in terrorism.

In connection with the fact that our interlocutor expressed such obvious displeasure with the Soviet Union, it was logical to ask what he thinks of the prospect for Soviet-Libyan relations.

In spite of everything, we believe in the Soviet Union and value our friendship with it, al-Qadhdhafi said. The USSR is Libya's traditional partner in trade and economic cooperation, and Tripoli intends to develop it.

The IAN correspondent working in Tripoli remarked that, according to estimates here, Libya owes the Soviet Union approximately $3 billion. When will it be possible to reckon on the debt being paid off?

It is not a debt in the literal sense of the word, the colonel believes, but payments for purchases of goods from the USSR. The Soviet Union and Libya have reached an agreement on compensation for these arrears. The agreement is being fulfilled. The entire volume of Soviet deliveries since the victory of al-Qadhdhafi's revolution totaled $20 billion, and it was paid for in counter-deliveries of oil. Cooperation with Libya is very advantageous from the commercial viewpoint.

In conclusion the talk turned to the abrupt changes in Tripoli's policy regarding Egypt and other neighboring countries. Today these relations, which quite recently were extremely strained, have been fully normalized. An unimpeded exchange of people and goods takes place over the border. If it were not for the Persian Gulf, North Africa could be reaping the fruits of the detente which has come about largely thanks to al-Qadhdhafi. This, in my view, reflects a characteristic feature of the world outlook and activity of the colorful Libyan leader. Despite a tendency toward bombastic and at times bellicose rhetoric, he remains a flexible politician standing on firm ground. Maybe this is the secret of the vitality of his regime, which has now been in existence for 21 years.

West Europe

Mitterrand, Gorbachev Assess Gulf Situation

LD1801155791 Moscow TASS in English 1539 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—At Francois Mitterrand's initiative, the Soviet and French leaders discussed the situation after the outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf. They conferred by telephone this morning.

It was noted that Saddam Husayn's refusal to fulfill U.N. Security Council resolutions made this method necessary to put an end to the aggression and the defiant flouting of international law.

Confirming that their assessments of the situation remained unchanged, Mikhail Gorbachev and Francois Mitterrand expressed hope that the Iraqi leadership would understand the justice of the world community's will and adopt a decision in the interests of the Iraqi people and the Arab world, making it possible to avoid still greater losses and victims.

French Admiral on War

LD2101091591 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris January 21 TASS—The military operation conducted by the multinational force against Iraq "seems to develop better than was supposed", Admiral Francois Lanxade, head of the military staff in the office of the French president, said in an interview with the Europe-1 radio station

Under the plan devised in advance, the first stage of this operation envisages intensive air strikes on Iraqi military targets, Lanxade said. He said this stage would be relatively long, taking at least three weeks.

These air raids, now being pointed at Iraqi forces deployed in occupied Kuwait, pursue the goal "to do everything possible for further land operations to be carried out with minimum losses and, possibly, become unnecessary altogether," Lanxade added.

The bombing raids by the multinational force damaged most of the runways at Iraqi airfields, Lanxade stressed. This, however, does not mean that they cannot be restored. Therefore, new strikes should be dealt at enemy airfields, he said.

Commenting on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statements on Sunday that Iraq had used only a part of its potential and is preparing a retaliatory strike, Lanxade expressed the view that "basically, this is a bluff".

Asked if Iraq had the capability of equipping its Scud missiles with chemical warheads, Lanxade said there was no accurate answer to this question. He said "work in this direction" had been carried out in Iraq.

As for using these missiles with conventional warheads against Israel, Lanxade said these actions reminded one of "military terrorism". At point [as received] are strikes at settlements, that are of no military importance but, have a considerable psychological effect. "So, at issue are weapons used for political and psychological purposes," Lanxade stressed.

Lanxade categorically denied Iraqi television reports, broadcast also by the Iranian news agency IRNA, that Iraq had captured French pilots. The French Air Force did not sustain losses during combat operations, Lanxade stressed.

Gorbachev Congratulates Kohl on Reelection

LD1801162191 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—President Gorbachev called Helmut Kohl today, congratulated him on being reelected chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and wished him success in putting into practice the potentialities that opened up after the reunification of Germany—a history-making event in the life of the German nation, of Europe and the world in general.

The president and the chancellor reiterated their invariable resolve to stick in Soviet-German relations to the agreements reached by them, despite inevitable difficulties in internal affairs, which do not at all mean the changing of the general course.

Gorbachev and Kohl discussed the gulf situation, the results of the first days of combat operations and a possibility to attain the goals, set by resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, reducing to the minimum the loss of life, which has already been inflicted because of Saddam Husayn's stand.

Belonogov Says German Treaties To Be Ratified

LD1901114191 Hamburg DPA in German 1017 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—In the next few weeks the Soviet Union will ratify the treaties that have been signed on German sovereignty, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov said in an interview in 'BILD AM SONNTAG'. Following the extensive discussions of the treaties there is no doubt in Moscow that "we will ratify the treaties with Germany in the next few weeks because they are the foundation stones of a new Europe."

Belgian Foreign Minister Regrets Baltic Deaths

LD2101164991 Moscow TASS in English 1623 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels January 21 TASS—Belgian Foreign Minister Marc Eyskens has expressed serious concern over events in the Baltics, particularly with those in Riga on Sunday.

In a communique published today, Eyskens called on the Soviet authorities to "put an end to repressions in the Baltic republics, show restraint and resume a dialogue with the elected leaders".

Military interference in these republics contradicts the principles of the final act of the Helsinki Conference confirmed at the Paris CSCE summit.

UK Foreign Minister Protests Baltic Events

LD2101153691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1446 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Voskoboynikov]

[Text] London, 21 Jan (TASS)—Douglas Hurd, Secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, summoned V.V. Ivanov, USSR charge d'affairs in Great Britain, today, and voiced a protest "in the most decisive" terms concerning with the "violence in Latvia". This was announced by the British Foreign Office.

At present "an alarming breach" is to be observed between the words and deeds of the Soviet leadership regarding the Baltic republics now aspiring to independence. According to the BBC television company, the minister "laid the blame for the events in Latvia directly upon Moscow."

Obminskiy Receives British Ambassador 18 Jan

LD1901054791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2036 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (TASS)—There was a conversation today between Ernest Obminskiy, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, and Rodric Quentin Braithwaite, ambassador of Great Britain to the USSR. A number of questions were discussed about the report on the state of the Soviet economy drawn up by leading international financial institutions and organizations (IMF, IBRD, EBRD, OECD).

Change of 'Rules' Jeopardizes Finnish Arms Order

PM1701110791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Jan 91 Union Edition p 5

[Report by V. Shmyganovskiy: "MiG, Mirage, and Clearing"]

[Text] Helsinki—Finnish Defense Minister Elisabeth Rehn has given the members of a parliamentary commission quite a surprise by reporting that all 60 of the fighter-interceptors to be acquired by the country may be purchased entirely from one of the Western firms—U.S., French, or Swedish.

You might think: Where is the sensation here? Every country is free to order armaments for its own army wherever it likes and from whomever it likes. However, it has always been the tradition of Finnish neutrality to "offset" deliveries from the East (from the USSR) with Western hardware, while at the same time developing its own production—of all-terrain vehicles, artillery pieces, warships, firearms... Our country, for example, supplied tanks.

It was also traditionally believed that Soviet fighters would guard the republic's skies along with Western-made aircraft. MiG-21's and Swedish Drakens now constitute the backbone of the Finnish Air Force. There had been the certainty that the obsolete aircraft would be replaced by MiG-29's and one of the interceptors—the Mirage 2000 (France) or the JAS 39 (Sweden). The local press even made assumptions about the possibility of buying aircraft from the USSR before the planned time (the mid-nineties) thereby clearing our country's big debt with a single squadron of MiG's under conditions of clearing trade.

Now, as UUSI SUOMI reports, they want to make purchases for the armed forces more economical. As regards fighters, then, proceeding from the spirit of E. Rehn's conversation with legislators, newspapers single out these words: "Neutrality must not be interpreted slavishly."

Of course, E. Rehn was expounding not only her own viewpoint but also that of the Finnish Defense Forces command. And the decision to turn to three Western firms, including a U.S. one, was agreed with Prime Minister H. Holkeri. Jaakko Iloniemi, chairman of the defense commission, declared that parliamentarians did not know of these Defense Ministry proposals. However, they confirmed the military's plans.

So, it is now a question of the most preferential price offered by one firm or another, of the terms of reciprocal purchases from Finland, etc.

But what of the MiG-29?

"This twin-engined aircraft," E. Rehn declared, "is not suitable for our country. It is too heavy..."

The press writes that Finnish airmen now favor the U.S. F-16. However, on no account does this mean that the final choice has been made, E. Rehn emphasized. According to her, a enquiry made of the USSR will evidently now be "purely formal."

What lies behind this decision? Above all, undoubtedly, the interests of Finland itself. Expenditure on the fighters will be huge. It must be reduced somehow, to standardize aircraft servicing, and improved flight safety. And yet I will venture to suggest that one of the reasons for the possible abandonment of MiG's lies in another sphere. Contrary to the requests of Finland's leadership, we abandoned the transitional period in transferring all trade to freely convertible currency. In our partners' opinion, this was necessary to smooth the dismantling of the old—40-years-old—system of transactions. Now, as we see, Finland may approach our interests from the same positions.

UUSI SUOMI wrote earlier that "The Air Force does not want Swedish aircraft and would prefer to have French Mirages." Thus the Finnish "deal of the century" could have been shared between them and Soviet MiG-29's.

And this is evidently how it would have been under the clearing system. Now we ourselves have proposed different rules—politics is politics, but money also has to be counted. Our neighbors count it too.

Political & Social

Economic Adviser Petrakov Resigns

PM2001143091 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with N. Petrakov, former economic adviser to the USSR president, by S. Bobrovskiy, under the rubric "Look Who's Gone"; place and date given: "Nikolay Petrakov, Former Adviser to the President"]

[Text] [Bobrovskiy] Nikolay Yakovlevich, I will begin with what is of greatest concern. On investigating the situation regarding the coming newsprint famine, I was most struck not by the high prices threatening to ruin my own newspaper, but by the "no-lose" argument I have been hearing more often in ministerial and government offices: "You yourselves campaigned for the market, and now you have gotten it."

[Petrakov] That is a lie. Things are bad for us not because we are developing the market. We are not developing it but destroying it.

Actually, the concept of a market transition was formed in 1987 (the Central Committee June plenum). So, from June 1987 through January 1990, the government—and I mean the government—contrived to increase the money supply by 55 percent, by half! They said we were moving toward the market, and at the very same time they were destroying the monetary system. They were drawing up schemes for improving the Finance Ministry's activity and, at the same time, were splashing money about. This is a scorched earth tactic, and it is carried out by the administrative-edict system.

[Bobrovskiy] And yet you are no outsider. Economic adviser to the president. Does this mean that people do not heed your advice?

[Petrakov] I will let you in on a secret: That is precisely why I resigned. My resignation was accepted two days ago.

[Bobrovskiy] So, you too... Yavlinskiy, Boris Fedorov, Shatalin, and now Petrakov. Does this mean that it is no longer relevant to talk of the market? Too late?

[Petrakov] Too late. Although... It is never too late or too early. It is like a pregnancy—it won't just go away. There is no alternative. Back in 1917, it was possible to urge people to build life according to a dream, but now the experiment has been done and the unfortunate result is in evidence. Not to see this is a sign of fanaticism and ossified thinking.

[Bobrovskiy] But what kind of a market can there be, when the finance minister who played an active part in the collapse of the monetary system is now occupying the premier's chair? Although they say he is good in his field...?

[Petrakov] I do not want to be a prophet, but I have great doubts as to whether the new cabinet of ministers will follow the path of creating a market. Prices, taxes—these are, of course, economic levers, and Pavlov knows how to manipulate them. But this is not the market. It is clothing worn by a mannequin, not a real live person. Prices regulated by the state are pseudo-prices. They do not balance supply and demand—there are still no goods; this is a mere imitation.

Today we need a de-ideologized the professional government. Society must choose the doctor, but should not decide on his behalf what course the operation should take. If you have put your trust in a surgeon, let him carry out his plans without running into the need to coordinate with politicians at every step.

Having drawn up a program for stabilizing finances and making the transition to the market, we did only part of the job; we were not allowed to complete it.

[Bobrovskiy] But why? That is the main point—why?

[Petrakov] It is very simple. Unrestrained populism. I think this is one of the distinguishing features of today's politicians. You can promise what you like: that the living standard will not fall, that we will increase pensions, social benefits, the miners' wages. It will take billions of rubles. And where are they to come from? They can only be printed.

And another distinguishing feature is the skeptical, disparaging attitude toward professionals. We can do it ourselves, they say, who needs professionals?

The "500 days" plan suffered for precisely these reasons. It is basically a rigorous, consistent plan of action, coordinated action in all the republics. You can't start liberalizing prices in Russia, but wait a while in, say, Belorussia. That is why we put forward the idea of an economic union. That is why we invited specialists from the republics. The specialists—all of them—approved the plan. But as soon as the program reached the republic parliaments, in all of them except the Russian parliament, the amendments poured in. And everything collapsed, fell apart. And the way was opened for the "Basic Guidelines."

[Bobrovskiy] Do you regret the time you spent in that post?...

[Petrakov] No, it was good experience. It was a pity I did not manage to carry out what I had in mind. If you like, you can call it the syndrome of a professional manque. Imagine, a young man enters the military academy, studies, serves, celebrates his successive military ranks, advances through the service. And then the time comes for the general to retire...

[Bobrovskiy] And no war!

[Petrakov] And no war. Thank heavens there is no war, of course. But all the same, he has never known what it is really like. His titles, his experience can only be put

into practice in a sand box. He himself does not know whether he is a coward or a hero, a real military leader or only so-so. He has lived his life without knowing. This idea pursued me when I agreed to Mikhail Sergeyevich's proposal. And it still pursues me now that I am resigning.

[Bobrovskiy] Has your attitude toward the president changed?

[Petrakov] No, my attitude is still good, warm.

[Bobrovskiy] When you submitted your resignation did you think about the fact that it would mean one less "market man" in the president's entourage?

[Petrakov] Yes, I thought about it. It was a difficult decision, of course. But I had formed the impression that I could no longer really influence events. So it is pointless for me to stay here. After all, I came here to get things done. Why else?

[Bobrovskiy] I have heard that you had long dreamed of setting up an Institute of the Market.

[Petrakov] Yes, and it has been set up. I will be working. Perhaps I will be suitable in that capacity. When all is said and done, if they need me they will find me.

[Bobrovskiy] Nikolay Yakovlevich, thank you for the interview. It only remains for all of us to hope that the demand for people like you arises again as soon as possible.

Yakovlev, Primakov, 5 Others Reportedly Quit

AU1901145891 Paris AFP in English 1450 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 19 (AFP) — Seven top Soviet officials once close to Mikhail Gorbachev, including Alexander Yakovlev and Yevgeniy Primakov, will no longer be part of the Soviet leadership as a protest, the independent news agency INTERFAX reported Saturday.

The agency's report said that Mr. Yakovlev, Mr. Primakov and Yuriy Osipyan, the deputy head of the Academy of Science, had resigned from the Presidential Council in protest at its abolition at the end of last year under constitutional reform giving sweeping powers to Mr. Gorbachev.

Former first deputy prime minister Leonid Abalkin and deputy prime minister Stepan Sitarian had stood down over the "government reorganisation", INTERFAX said.

Mr. Gorbachev's personal economic adviser Nikolay Petrov and economist Stanislav Shatalin had meanwhile resigned from the Gorbachev team because of "their disagreement on the slowness in implementing economic reform".

The agency noted that Mr. Gorbachev had appointed "technocrats close to the industrial-military complex" to join his new team, judging by his choice of "three out of four deputy prime ministers".

The announcement of the seven's protest resignations by INTERFAX comes after Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze resigned last month claiming that dictatorship was around the corner.

Mr. Petrakov's resignation had been made public earlier Saturday, but it was the first indication that officials such as Mr. Primakov, who was Mr. Gorbachev's envoy to the Gulf and tipped as possible foreign minister, no longer held any official post.

Gorbachev Visits Lenin Mausoleum 21 Jan

LD2101120191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1147 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, today visited the mausoleum of V.I. Lenin and honored the memory of the founder of the Soviet state and creater of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He took part in the ceremony to lay a wreath from the CPSU Central Committee at the leader's burial vault.

Members of the cabinet of ministers, leaders of the CPSU and of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Communist Party, of the Moscow City Committee and the Moscow Committee of the CPSU, as well as of other public organizations also honored the memory of V.I. Lenin. Wreaths were laid by them.

Moscow Rally Supports Saddam, Socialism

LD1901211591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Representatives of the United Worker's Front intended to devote today's Moscow rally to a condemnation of the activities of the Moscow City Soviet, but in the course of the preparations for the event, the Moscow City Soviet receded into the background as events in Lithuania occurred and war in the Persian Gulf broke out. More than 300 people, according to militia estimates, gathered to protest against any deviation from socialism in our country and, specifically, connivance with bourgeois-minded politicians. This, in their opinion, has led to all our problems. They think that the so-called democrats, especially those in the Russian parliament, were elected without any consideration for the interests of the working people, and should therefore resign. There are several differences between the view on international relations of those who assembled and that of the Union government and the world community. The Pamyat society coordination council was not a rally organizer, but its activists took part in the event. The calls of Pamyat were not in the least discordant with the calls of the others at the rally.

Hijacker Commandeers Plane to Bulgaria 21 Jan

LD2101220291 Moscow TASS in English 2107 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Aleksander Stepanenko and Andrey Chupakhin]

[Text] Sofia January 21 TASS—The hijacker who commandeered a Soviet domestic flight to the Bulgarian city of Burgas today, refused to meet Soviet officials, Bulgarian Interior Ministry officer on duty told TASS.

The man, identified as Gennadiy Yurievich Gan [as received], born in 1955, today hijacked an Aeroflot Tu-154 airliner en route from Tashkent to Odessa, with 156 passengers, including five children, the officer said.

When the plane was approaching Odessa, Gan—who recently served a prison term—ordered the crew to fly to Istanbul, threatening to blow the plane up.

Turkish authorities refused to accept the airliner and it was forced to land in Bulgaria.

A special team led by Bulgarian Deputy Interior Minister Krasimir Sandzhiev began talks with the hijacker. After several hours of talks, Bulgarian police overpowered the hijacker.

No bomb was found on the man, the Bulgarian News Agency reports.

All passengers are in good health and have been accommodated in a hotel. On Tuesday, the plane is expected to fly to Odessa.

Kuzbass Political Strike Threatened

LD1501160191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] The Kuzbass Council of Workers' Committees decided today to appeal to the oblast inhabitants to hold a general political strike. It is planned to start on 18 January and end after the demands put forward by the council are fulfilled. They include: dissolution of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies; resignation of the union government and the president of the country; and the formation of new state structures only after the conclusion of the union treaty of sovereign states. Depoliticization of the law enforcement bodies, and nationalization of the property of the CPSU and All-union Central Council of Trade Unions are envisaged.

The decision to hold a political strike was adopted almost unanimously by the members of the workers' committees and representatives of the labor collectives of the coal enterprises of Novokuznetsk, Mezhdurechensk, and Osinniki.

Our correspondent adds that in his view the political demands have appeared largely because of the nonfulfillment of the economic demands made by the miners back at the time of the July 1989 strike.

Secretariat Considers Baltics, Other Matters

LD1801182191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The events in the Baltic republics and the reaction to them inside the country and abroad were discussed at a routine session of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat.

At this session, the situation in the Kuzbass was also examined.

Planning questions were on the agenda.

Proposals on organizing, on the basis of the Institute of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee, a permanent seminar for active party members and communist people's deputies to study foreign parliamentary experience were adopted.

It was decided to lend maximum assistance to the USSR Supreme Soviet for the adoption of specific decisions to improve the life of the peoples of the north and of Siberia because of a note by the writer (Sangi), president of the Association of the Small Peoples of the North. The Secretariat also examined cadre questions.

New Democratic Party Supports Baltic Republics

LD1901232491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2105 GMT 19 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] A new democratic organization has been created in Moscow today. It joins the Republican Party of Russia, the former Democratic Platform, and the Social Democratic Party of Russia. The new party condemns the policy of military law in Lithuania, and expresses solidarity with the Baltic peoples.

General Reports Bill on 'Rights of Servicemen'

LD2201105591 Moscow TASS in English 1013 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 22 TASS—A bill on the status of servicemen has been drawn up in the Soviet Union in order to guarantee them legal and social protection. The rightlessness of servicemen was particularly borne out by events in Lithuania.

"This law is expected to be adopted by the next session of the Soviet parliament, scheduled for February 18," deputy chief of staff of the Soviet Armed Forces Colonel-General Grigoriy Krivosheyev told TASS today.

According to Krivosheyev, the bill's most important stipulation is that servicemen on duty "are representatives of state power and enjoy all corresponding legal powers and guarantees".

"In light of the prevailing situation," Krivosheyev noted, "the bill is expected to contain articles obliging state bodies, public organisations and officials to ensure the rights of servicemen, respect their personality, observe their dignity and honour."

Krivosheyev described some provisions of the bill. "Servicemen," he said, "will have the right to be members of political parties, organisations, mass movements and other public associations, whose rules and activities do not contradict the USSR Constitution and the legislation in force." He noted that the minimum pay of junior officers, petty officers and extended service men will be not less than average wages in the USSR. Legal norms will be enacted to ensure them housing facilities.

"At the same time," Krivosheyev stressed, "several rights of servicemen will be restricted." They include the choice of domicile and professions, as well as freedom of movement. "These and other limitations," Krivosheyev believes, "are explained by service requirements and will be compensated by definite privileges."

Government Endorses Resolution on Food Supplies

LD1801223191 Moscow TASS in English 2151 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The USSR Council of Ministers has endorsed a resolution on measures to implement the economic agreement between the USSR and the union republics on food and agricultural raw materials supply in 1991.

The resolution says, in part, that to ease tension in the supply of the population with food already in the first three months of this year and to normalise these supplies in the subsequent months, the USSR Council of Ministers' State commissions on Food and Purchases, the governments of the union republics, the Central Council of consumers' Cooperatives - Centrosoyuz, the USSR Ministries of Trade, Fishery and Foreign Economic Relations need to carry out a range of measures to ensure the production of at least 156 billion roubles' worth of food in 1991 (in current retail prices of 1990).

It was established that the USSR State Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers on Food and Purhcases and the USSR Trade Ministry should define, jointly with the governments of the union republics, specific suppliers and recipients of products, agricultural raw materials and fodder, ensure the conclusion of economic contracts for 1991 and set the terms for and the range of products supplied to state reserves.

The resolution envisages the organisation of the import of food and agricultural raw materials for its production, packaging and other materials to the tune of 9,500 million roubles, including 2,100 million roubles - in the first three months. Priority should be attached to the purchase of soya oil-seed meal, meat and meat products, sugar, animal and vegetable oil.

Vzyglyad Correspondent Appeals for Support Funds

LD1701190891

[Editorial Report] Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian at 1616 GMT on 17 January carries a 12-minute feature in which Andrey Antonov, one of a group of correspondents of the Vzyglyad television program who have been filming in Lithuania in recent days, reads out a statement and is then interviewed on the demise of this program.

Antonov says that the demise of the Vzyglyad program was connected with material it had prepared on the resignation of Shevardnadze; unfortunately he cannot say anything about this material as he was not involved in preparing it. He only knows that two extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassadors were invited to the studio. The material was removed by higher authorities as it conflicted with the official version. Eventually the higher authorities decided to drop the whole program.

Speaking of their presence in Vilnius, Antonov says that the Vzyglyad group has been preparing a program on Lithuanian events, that involves interviewing representatives of all sides, including the soldiers.

The Vzyglyad programs of 28 December, 4 January, and 11 January were not broadcast, Antonov says. He continues: "And now the question has been raised of whether the program will exist at all. Various optimistic forecasts are being heard on television that soon we will have some sort of concept of the Vzyglyad program; we shall present this concept to our boss, Leonid Petrovich Kravechnko; he will confirm this concept, and then we shall go on the air with some new political concept. But I do not know what new concept we could have. Our concept is just what it used to be. We have always had certain democratic ideals, and we shall continue with them. If they continue to put such strong pressure on us then, evidently, we shall simply quit Gosteleradio [State TV and Radio Committee]. But to do this, we shall need funds, large funds. And, therefore, I would now like to read out an appeal to the association of heads of USSR enterprises and the Moscow banking alliance, that is, those financial organizations which came out in our support at a difficult time."

The appeal condemns the attack on glasnost and announces the setting up of a charity fund for solidarity with Vzyglyad which will help unemployed Gosteleradio workers and other democratic journalists. It concludes with the words: "A state which has a free press does not kill its citizens. Reaction shall not pass. Liberty and democracy will triumph."

Returning to the program about Shevardnadze. Antonov says: "I can say that the version of Shevardnadze's resignation which we presented contained the underlying idea that Shevardnadze's resignation marked a change of political course, it was a move to the right. That is, we are moving toward dictatorship. And this idea clearly showed through in this and in the long commentary which covered the period 1985 - 1990 and, of course, our

version, our analysis and review of the events which preceded Shevardnadze's resignation, and the events which took place after Shevardnadze's resignation. Evidently, we even traced and even perceived the Lithuanian events which took place in Lithuania much later."

Antonov concludes by saying that dictatorship will not triumph as democratic forces are uniting in the face of increasing reaction.

Gosteleradio, INTERFAX Dispute Aired

PM1801144191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[Feature by Vl. Arsenyev, V. Georgiyevskiy, and F. Ivanov: "Gosteleradio-INTERFAX Conflict: Politics or Accounts?"]

[Text] As the mass media have already reported, on 11 January the USSR Gosteleradio [State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting] decided to halt the activity of the INTERFAX news agency in the state committee's premises. The Gosteleradio leadership thus broke all business relations with the information structure it had itself created. Several versions of the reasons for the break are known: from difference of political views to organizational and financial differences.

Your IZVESTIYA correspondents asked representatives of the sides to comment on the conflict situation.

Mikhail Komissar, general director of INTERFAX:

Our agency was created in 1989 by agreement between the chief editorial office of foreign broadcasting information and propaganda and the "Interkvadro" joint venture. The sides undertook to transfer 440,000 rubles [R] each for the agency's needs, and Gosteleradio was to provide premises, communications channels, and wages for INTERFAX staffers. But, apart from a small room and several communications lines, we received nothing from the state committee. On the other hand persecution of the agency began literally in the first montns of its work. We were told indirectly and directly that the political lines of Gosteleradio and INTERFAX differed. They tried with all their might to prevent our work. As a result a very advantageous contract with a major Western agency—also advantageous to Gosteleradio itself—and other plans were thwarted. And this despite the fact that we became a free source of information for many television and radio programs and that our bulletins were received very eagerly every day by those who were impeding us most actively—state committee deputy chairmen V. Lazutkin, P. Reshetov, and M. Sukhov.

The antagonism became particularly acute in the fall of last year, when the Gosteleradio leadership dismissed 11 of our staffers, placing the agency on the verge of closure. The chief editorial office of foreign broadcasting information broke its agreement with "Interkvadro." Then we decided to register INTERFAX as an independent agency at the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Ministry of the Press and Mass Information and in October as an independent economic unit. On 11 January L. Kravchenko hastily collected the collegium TASS, PRAVDA, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA correspondents had been prudently invited. I tried to persuade Leonid Petrovich to take his time, and investigate everything calmly, with documents to hand, but he did not even start listening to me. At the collegium I again had to listen to a mass of utterly undeserved accusations. In particular it was stated that I was holding posts at both the foreign broadcasting office and INTERFAX and had then received a new foreign broadcasting appointment.

We were accused of failing to transfer to Gosteleradio the proportion of our profit due to it. But calculations show that the State Committee's contribution to INTERFAX in terms of premises and communications lines is not in excess of R33,000—that is less than 10 percent of the sum stipulated by the agreement. That is why, when talk turned to sharing the revenue, we calculated that the Gosteleradio had the right to claim no more than 10 percent of the profit. And we had already fulfilled that commitment by buying six modern personal computers for the state committee.

Nonetheless all our arguments went unheeded. The collegium had not yet finished before technicians were already disconnecting the telephones in our room and pulling out the wires "at the roots." Essentially the agency was being seized. But we did not break off our work for a single day. Immediately after what had happened became known we were granted premises in the buildings of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR scientific and technical union.

I am sure that what happened was the result not of financial but of political differences with the Gosteleradio leadership. Indeed, we are prepared to listen to financial claims, but only within a legal procedure.

Valentin Lazutkin, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosteleradio:

There is no politics in the story with INTERFAX. In the fall of 1989 together with "Interkvadro" we were the cofounders of the agency, gave it a roof over its head and the opportunity to make use of the correspondents' network and communications. M. Komissar himself worked for us as deputy chief editor of the main editorial office of foreign broadcasting information and propaganda.

INTERFAX grew, acquired subscribers, became a notable phenomenon in the mass media. And—an important point—without any political interference from us. It worked and developed independently.

Unfortunately, the INTERFAX leader behaved unscrupulously. He unilaterally broke off relations with the cofounders and on 19 September last year registered the independent agency in his own name. We learned of that later. When M. Komissar was questioned 11 January at

the collegium he cited the agency labor collective's alleged decision on the subject. That is a deception. All the people in INTERFAX are workers either for the USSR Gosteleradio or for "Interkvadro," if we are speaking of those in Moscow.

Moreover, M. Komissar decided to leave without leaving a kopek for Gosteleradio. From the outset he conducted all the accounts away from us—in both rubles and currency. Although Gosteleradio has cofounder had the right to 50 percent of the revenue. Of course, we were offended when we learned of M. Komissar's unseemly actions. Why did he manage to swindle us for so long? Such prolonged swindling is only possible when the swindler is a great specialist in the matter and the people he is swindling are simpletons. It is a pity that some commentators interpret this banal story as the stifling of the democratic press.

Mikhail Fedotov, RSFSR deputy minister of the press and mass information:

In September last year Mikhail Komissar, the leader of the INTERFAX agency, turned to the RSFSR Ministry of the Press and Mass Information asking that, in accordance with the USSR Law "On the press and other mass media," the agency be registered. His application was compiled in compliance with all the stipulated requirements necessary for registration. The territory of the RSFSR was cited as the proposed audience for the dissemination of information. He himself acted as the agency's founder.

Of course, we knew that INTERFAX was already in operation. But we did not set about checking the organizational basis of the agency's creation, its membership, or its mutual relations with Gosteleradio. And not because we were reluctant to do so but because such actions are banned by law. After all in accordance with article nine of the law on the press (making other demands (in addition to those M. Komissar had already complied) when registering mass media is forbidden."

On 20 September 1990, M. Komissar was issued with registration certificate Number 94. Here it was issued on his honor, on condition that M. Komissar paid a registration fee of R2,000 into the republican budget. But so far we have not received from him any information that he has fulfilled his promise. That is why the question of INTERFAX' registration remains open. Unless M. Komissar pays the sum stipulated by legislation in the immediate future, the registration certificate will have to be annulled.

That does not mean that we are trying to liquidate INTERFAX after Gosteleradio's statement. We believe it our duty to support alternative information structures, including alternatives to TASS and Gosteleradio, because monopolization of the mass media is banned by article seven of the Law on the press.

As for the property disputes between Gosteleradio and INTERFAX, they must be resolved not by political statements, but by legal action. In the court or court of arbitration. [Fedotov ends]

Our commentary: The conflict situation was programed from the outset, when the agreement was signed between Gosteleradio and "Interkvadro." Without creating a new legal entity, without defining its relations with the cofounders, without establishing deadlines for transferring money to the INTERFAX fund, the sides doomed themselves to endless recriminations. For a long time no one from the Gosteleradio leadership questioned the situation whereby INTERFAX kept all its funds in "Interkvadro" accounts. Only now that a financial report has been demanded from both the state committee and the agency has it emerged that it is not that simple to get it... There has been a split in the board of the joint venture and people there are more concerned with internal recriminations than with mutual relations with the agency and the cofounder.

A year after the start of its work it had already emerged that INTERFAX could bring substantial profits. Its revenue nows runs into tens of thousands of dollars. At that moment Gosteleradio began a battle with the agency leadership and INTERFAX became independent. But even in the new situation property relations were not determined and a lease contract was not even signed.

In brief, a situation took shape whereby the conflicting sides, anxious to gain as much as possible, behaved incorrectly, to put it mildly, towards each other. And as a result millions of readers may be deprived of their already customary information with the note "transmitted by INTERFAX."

Economic

Resolution Issued on Boosting Food Production

PM2201102791 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "To Stabilize and Improve Food Supply"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on the economic agreement between the USSR and the union republics regarding deliveries of food and agricultural raw materials in 1991.

The resolution is, in particular, to ease the strain in the population's food supply in the first quarter of this year. Foodstuffs to a value of at least 156 billion rubles [R] (at 1990 current retail prices) are to be produced this year, and the conclusion of economic contracts for 1991 is to be ensured.

Imported food, agricultural raw materials for production, and packaging and other materials to a value of up to R9.5 billion will be purchased.

It is recommended to encourage growth in the number of food producers on the basis of leasing, privatization, and a reduction in state control at enterprises in agriculture, the food sectors of industry, and fishing, with due regard for the interests of labor collectives.

The centralized allocation of quotas for the delivery of the most important types of material and technical resources for the agro-industrial complex will be carried out in 1991. Thus, centrally distributed material and technical resources to a value of R57,824,000,000 will be channeled into construction and installation work.

A procedure will be established for the priority supply of materials and subassemblies to enterprises producing equipment for processing sectors of the agro-industrial complex and also to draw up and submit in the first quarter of 1991 comprehensive programs for the development of small-capacity enterprises for the processing of agricultural produce directly on farms.

Priority development of individual housing construction in the countryside, the revival of small villages, and the allocation of the necessary construction materials for these purposes will be implemented.

With a view to protecting the rights and legitimate interests of collective farms, state farms, rural cooperatives, peasant (private) farms, enterprises in food sectors of industry, procurement organizations, and food and agricultural raw materials storage bases, power supply enterprises will be held more responsible for losses borne by agro-industrial enterprises as a result of unplanned and unagreed electricity and gas outages.

State enterprises and organizations are permitted, proceeding from the production conditions, to grant workers and employees two- or three-week periods of unpaid leave to carry out seasonal work such as planting potatoes and vegetables, procuring feed, and gathering the harvest on private plots and in gardens belonging to them or their parents.

Dutch Aid Donors Face Difficulties in USSR

91UF0328A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No 2, Jan 91 p 5

[Article by M. Dmitriyev: "Help the Russians Live Through the Winter"]

[Text] **This phrase was on 600,000 postcards sent throughout all of the Netherlands at the beginning of December. Here is what the text printed on them said: "The supply of food products in the USSR is become worse and worse, especially in the large cities. There is the danger that the elderly, the sick, and the disabled and also single mothers might become victims of this situation. We want to help them live through the winter by sending friendly assistance..."**

The postcards were sent out by a social organization organized by volunteers after they received information about the food difficulties in the USSR. About 20 million guilders (1 dollar equals 1.7 guilders) were collected in a short period of time. Perhaps this fact is not worth mentioning by itself—help for the poor citizens of the richest country in the world is coming from dozens of countries of the world—and we are very grateful—but we are struck by the efficient organization of the measure by a small group of enthusiasts. Any Dutchman who received a postcard could render aid, as it were, without getting up from his chair. All he had to do was write on the postcard the name of his bank, his account number, and the amount he wished to give. And then drop the postcard in a mailbox. To fire up the enthusiasm of the citizens, a television station organized a special television marathon, and the time when this program could be seen was mentioned on the postcard. Having collected the money, the "Help the Russians" organization did not stop there. A mass delegation was sent to the USSR. It turned out that there was no immediate threat of mass starvation. Therefore the organization changed its initial plan; to use the money that had been collected to make standard food packages. Instead of that they bought medications, disposable syringes, and children's food.

It was more difficult to give what they had collected to precisely the people who needed it. "Unfortunately, in your country there are very few organizations not run by the state," said F. Timmermans, a Dutch embassy worker, in a conversation with an ARGUMENTY I FAKTY correspondent. "We have an immense number of social organizations in our country. They spring up like mushrooms after a rain. And, if necessary, they also disappear when they think their job is completed."

Ultimately the "Help the Russians" had to deal with the Red Cross, also assisting in distributing the aid. But I thought: In 70 years the "social" organizations, the CPSU, the Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League], and the trade unions have destroyed our will to do volunteer work for the good of society to such an extent that now we are not even able to help ourselves. And another thing. The almost unanimous refusal for foreign social organizations to cooperate with our state organizations in rendering assistance to Soviet citizens—is this not a sign of the deepest mistrust that not only we but also public opinion abroad feel for our state structures?

Emergence of Soviet Stock Exchanges Viewed

PM1701165391 Paris BUSINESS IN THE USSR in English No 8, Jan 91 pp 42-43

[Article by Alla Romanova: "Shares Market: Stake Your Claims Now"]

[Text] Nobody knows exactly how many stock exchanges and broking companies have been established in this country. The Ministry of Finance believes that the first to be created during the period of perestroika was officially registered last September by the government council of Kharkov, in the Ukraine. Projects to launch

more stock exchanges have been developed by the banking association Menatep and the Moscow Banking Union.

As for firms of brokers, which can be registered at any local government council, these are, as officials of the State Bank Gosbank's Securities Department like to joke, "unidentified market objects and their number is almost unlimited". Such institutions are often launched by people with only vague ideas about stock- exchange rules. Since there are no coherent regulations, few businesses are willing to issue their stocks for free trading, but even those which may be available cannot be printed by the low- capacity Gosznak factory. The Union Treaty between the republics has not yet been signed, and the Russian and federal ministries are fighting to defend their spheres of influence.

Ilya Kitaygorodsky, chief of the Credits Department of the Ministry of Finance, says that the current drive for registering more and more new stock exchanges and firms of brokers resembles the Klondike gold rush at the beginning of the century, with everyone racing to stake a claim to a plot of land.

Tenyakov's Third Attempt

Eduard Tenyakov, recently elected chairman of the Central Stock Exchange, was one of the first to try to revive the business institution most common to any market economy. Back in 1988, he announced the launching of a stock exchange based on his cooperative Rotor Bank in the city of Chelyabinsk. According to the original plan, the exchange was to begin listing the shares of some state enterprises. Strictly speaking, these were bonds rather than shares, which companies issued in an attempt to attract capital.

Tenyakov's first project was never destined to materialize, if only because there were no competent brokers. But he was not discouraged. In September 1990, he registered a brokers' association, the shareholders' company Fininvest, which was meant to function mainly in conjunction with the commercial banks. With an authorized fund of 900,000 roubles, Fininvest at the present time unites nearly 30 broker institutions. Its founders and shareholders are the USSR Ministry of Finance (33.3 percent), the shareholders' Social Development Bank (27.8 percent), and two commerical banks—the bank for the Development of the Automotive Industry and the Autobank (11.1 percent).

Fininvest's chief objective is to help Soviet state concerns transform themselves into joint-stock companies and arrange initial share subscriptions (for stocks not traded at the exchange).

The stock exchange which Tenyakov finally launched, at his third attempt, is one of the wealthiest financial institutions in the country today. The 190 participants in the founding conference, who won their voting rights by paying 900 roubles each, probably rank as the country's most well-to-do commercial banks and companies. Of these, 118 founders, after signing the accord to establish the stock exchange, vowed to contribute half a million roubles each to the statutory capital.

"The Central Stock Exchange's only vulnerable spot is inherent in the commitment of Fininvest (also headed by Tenyakov) to arrange initial share subscription for newly-born joint-stock companies," says Andrey Kozlov, chief of the Gosbank Securities Department. It must be tempting to try to sell them all in a package at the stock exchange. While Fininvest would hardly suffer from such a transaction, the embryonic exchange might well fail to endure such a glut of shares on its new securities market and could collapse.

The USSR Ministry of Finance, which gave its formal blessing to the exchange through Ilya Kitaygorodsky (who has even become a member of the Stock Exchange Council), is in no hurry to back financial speculation.

The Russian Ministry of Finance

The above "formula" is applicable to the situation obtained during the emergence of the Moscow International Stock Exchange. According to Bella Zlatkis, chief of the Shareholding Companies and Money Markets Department at the Russian Federation's Finance Ministry, who led the team drafting the exchange statutes, "commercial banks cannot be brokers, as this means they get the right to engage in transactions at the stock exchange, risking their clients' money." Small wonder that no commercial banks are among the founders of the exchange, apart from the Mosincomebank which has vowed to contribute 100,000 roubles.

The biggest founding members are INECO, a Soviet-U.S. joint venture ($2 million), and the USSR Ministry of Finance whose contribution to the statutory capital is yet to be specified. But according to Bella Zlatkis, the Russian Ministry of Finance is not seeking a controlling interest. Its regulatory functions will be sealed by the appropriate legislation. Transactions at the stock exchange may involve securities issued in keeping with existing legislation, including shares and bonds of shareholders' companies, state loan bonds, the treasury's commitments, bank deposit certificates and foreign exchanges.

Transactions can only be conducted through the stock exchange's members, who can be divided into two categories; brokers who accomplish transactions using their clients' money and dealers who can buy and sell shares using their own money.

Broker status is granted to legal entities entitled to licences from Russia's Finance Ministry (qualification requirements are yet to be defined). As part of the effort to protect investors' interests, shareholders' companies (with the exception of state concerns transformed into joint-stock companies) are to be allowed to trade their securities, provided that they meet the following requirements.

—being at least three years old;

—operating without losses for at least two years;
—capital amounting to at least 300,000 roubles;
—minimum number of shareholders - 200;
—financial documents checked for the previous fiscal year;
—founders holding not more than 60 percent of paid-up capital.

Unlike the recent regulations by the federal government, the Russian Federation's legislation allows foreign involvement in shareholding companies on a par with Soviet participants; to avoid speculation only registered shares are to be put into circulation (federal regulations allow only bearer shares); a shareholding company cannot be established by less than three founders (two founders, according to federal regulations); the minimum holding have been reduced from 500,000 roubles (prescribed by federal rules) to 100,000 roubles; the total value of shares issued by a shareholding company in the Russian Federation shall equal the stated statutory capital (compared to 25 percent of the statutory capital under federal regulations); a shareholding company is governed by a three-tier managerial structure (the general meeting of shareholders, the board of directors, and the management); a mechanism has been devised for turning a state concern into a shareholding company; a shareholding company can be registered in the first instance by the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (not by local government councils, as prescribed by federal regulations).

Securities of shareholding companies registered in keeping with existing Soviet legislation shall not be traded at the Russian Stock Exchange. The Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation is to demand mandatory re-registration of the shareholding companies established on the territory of the russian federation previously.

Good Business or Bad?

What is the relationship between the Moscow International Stock Exchange and its federal equivalent? "Competitive," Bella Zlatkis says curtly. She wouldn't be scared by a number of different stock exchanges or by the size of the statutory capital of the main rival, the Central Stock Exchange. "The most important thing in exchange transactions is to observe the rules. Only those who earn the reputation of being a strong and reliable dealer will survive. This is a question of time, if we are to embark on protecting the interests of rank-and-file investors."

Ilya Kitaygorodsky says that even at the initial phase one of the stock exchanges will enjoy priority as a federal institution. Regional exchanges will be justified only when there is federal legislation on stock exchanges, according to him. Differences between republican laws governing exchange activities will only accelerate the country's disintegration, he believes, because the next step might be the introduction of republican currencies.

But isn't it too early to argue about the merits and bottlenecks of these new exchanges? Indeed, the Kamaz truck plant is the only big Soviet enterprise fully transformed into a shareholding company, and the programme for state securities subscription has proved a flop.

There is more sense in talking about privatization programmes. The Moscow International Stock Exchange will reportedly participate in the drafting of such a programme for the Russian Federation in conjunction with the newly-established committee for State Property Management. The Russian government also intends to apply the so-called Dutch auctioning method while arranging subscriptions for the 1990 state loan bonds bearing 5 percent interest. The arrangement implies that the bonds will be sold at prices below their nominal value. For example, with a total loan value of 100 million roubles, the bonds will be sold for 90 million, and the buyers will be paid back the full nominal value plus interest after 16 years.

Even less is known about the intentions of the federal government. However, Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet Minister of Finance, believes that the drive for transforming state industries into shareholding companies will make a breakthrough sometime in the middle of 1991. Eduard Tenyakov reckons that by that time shareholding companies and organizations will have issued securities worth a total of 50-50 billion roubles. What still remains open to question is whether these securities will have any value or attract any buyers.

Armenian Law on Property

914A0169A

For the Armenian Law on Property published in the 13 November issue of GOLOS ARMENII, see the JPRS Report Soviet Union: Economic Affairs, JPRS-UEA-91-003, Pages 30-37.

RSFSR Law on USSR Personal Income Tax Law

914A0232A

For the RSFSR Law on USSR Personal Income Tax published in the 23 December issue of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, see the JPRS Report Soviet Union: Economic Affairs, JPRS-UEA-91-003, pages 24-28.

USSR Law on Trade Unions Rights

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For the Law on Trade Unions Rights published in the 15 December issue of PRAVDA, see the JPRS Report Soviet Union: Economic Affairs, JPRS-UEA-91-003, pages 109-113.

Scientific

Cosmos-2122 Satellite Launched 18 Jan

LD1901094191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0913 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—Another artificial Earth satellite, "Cosmos-2122" was launched in the Soviet Union on Friday [18 January].

The satellite carries scientific apparatuses for continuing space research. It has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters:
—initial period of revolution, 92.8 mins;
—apogee, 432 km;
—perigee, 413 km;
—inclination, 65 degrees.

Besides scientific apparatuses, the satellite carries a radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to Earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatuses.

The apparatuses aboard the satellite are working normally.

The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

Salyut-7 Will 'Cease To Exist'

PM1801112091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 91 Second Edition p 6

[TASS report: "On the Flight of the 'Salyut-7' Station"]

[Text] Flight Control Center, 16 Jan—The ground tracking services are continuing round-the-clock observation of the flight of the "Salyut-7—Kosmos-1686" complex. Its current orbital parameters are as follows:
Maximum distance from the earth's surface—278 km.
Minimum distance from the earth's surface—259 km.
Orbital period—89.6 minutes.
Orbital inclination—51.6 degrees.

Experts calculate that the "Salyut-7—Kosmos-1686" complex will cease to exist during the first half of February 1991.

Chelyabinsk Enterprise Producing Radioactive Isotopes

LD1601231491 Moscow Central Television Vostok Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1530 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent S. Sergeyev in Chelyabinsk Oblast; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Summary] Chelyabinsk Oblast has the only factory in the country producing radioactive isotopes. Until recently a film crew has never been allowed to enter this defense-related enterprise. However, today 95 percent of the factory's output is used for peaceful purposes, and a correspondent from the "Vremya" program is reporting from this unique facility for the first time.

[Sergeyev] To start off with they showed us the reservoir. The manufactured products are kept on the bottom, under a three-meter thick layer of extremely clear water coming from Artesian wells. They shine with a mysterious blue light. These are hermetically sealed cases and capsules containing radioactive cobalt. Gamma rays are irrespressibly trying to get out of the steel shells but the water turns out to be capable of barring the path of radio nuclides. The radiation harnessed at this factory from various radioactive materials has long been used in the national economy, in scientific research, and in medicine. In areas difficult to assess, for example, it provides energy for equipment at automatic meteorological stations and radio beacons marking the Northern Sea Passage.

Gamma flaw detectors, water levels, known to many workers engaged in production operate on the basis of isotopes. Here in the Urals sources of power were prepared for the moon vehicle [lunakhod] and for the space stations operating automatically.

However, isotopes are probably most widely used in medicine for diagnosing illness and for treating tumors. Recently the production of a source of heat from plutonium was recently mastered here for a radio nuclide electrocardiostimulant. An apparatus inserted in the heart disease sufferer can operate for 20 years, while the chemical sources of power previously used only operated for three years and then required another complicated operation.

All the workshops at the radio isotope factory remind one of a laboratory at the best clinics. There is not a speck of dust nor a grain of salt to be seen. They are familiar with plutonium, strontium, uranium, cesium, lithium, and neptunium. The sources of radioactivity are separated from the operators by a concrete wall 50 cm thick, and by an equally thick multi-layer of leaded glass. Incredible mastery is needed to plae a tiny piece of isotope in the capsule and seal it hermetically with the help of a master industrial robot. Now we can see how they are sealing a capsule just four mm in diameter.

Kazakh TV To Cover Entire Republic

PM1801143191 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Dec 91

[Report by correspondent A. Nugmanova in Kazakhstan; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Nugmanova] On the eve of the New Year, Kazakh telecommunication workers are putting into operation a powerful modern station, the first station of the republican "Zharyk" ["Light"] satellite television system. [video shows satellite dish]

What is "Zharyk?" It is a television broadcasting system that will make it possible to expand the area where

Kazakh television programs are received. All that has to be done is to build this kind of small complex in any remote place and people will immediately have access to everything that is happening in the republic.

[U.K. Karamanov, prime minister of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic] At present some two million people in the republic cannot receive Kazakh television programs. This applies mainly to the indigenous population. With the commissioning of this network transmitter a realistic opportunity has emerged for republic television to cover the entire territory of Kazakhstan. In addition this system also covers vast territories of the European part of the Soviet Union and Asia. This means that it covers border areas in Russia where many Kazakhs live. Furthermore, Kazakhs living in Mongolia and China will also be able to watch our programs. This means that an issue of great importance to our population is being resolved here.

It is important to note that our republic is one of the first to have such a satellite television broadcasting system.

[Nugmanova] Allow me to add that the installation and startup of the equipment have been carried out within a very short spell of time. Satellite broadcasting is expensive, but it is five times cheaper than the orthodox method using ground radio relay lines.

It is planned to rapidly develop a major television reception network in the republic in the near future, comprising at least 100 stations.

Military

Baltic Fleet Troops Vow To Defend Themselves

PM2101192391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Open Letter from Servicemen with Units and Garrisons of the Baltic Fleet Deployed on the Territory of the Baltic Republics to the USSR President and the USSR Supreme Soviet; distributed in Moscow on 21 January]

[Text]Esteemed Comrade President!

Esteemed Comrade USSR People's Deputies!

An unbridled campaign with the blessing of the Baltic republic leaders has recently been launched discrediting the Soviet Armed Forces and setting them in opposition to elements of power and the Soviet people.

The radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines have been full of rumors about the "cruelty" of servicemen, their "inhumanity and atrocities." Such rumors have been spread at official sessions and rallies.

There have been statements on Lithuanian TV that Lithuania is henceforth in a state of war with the Soviet Union, and calls have been made for an armed struggle and for Lithuanian territory to be purged of agents and occupiers from other states. Lists are being compiled of those not to the current Lithuanian leadership's liking. Such people are termed enemies of the Lithuanian people.

We are convinced that these are planned actions aimed at causing outright terror and provoking clashes. Only our restraint, discipline, and organization has made it possible to avoid many casualties.

We believe that the trip to the Baltic by B.N. Yeltsin, head of the Russian Parliament, did not promote the defusing of the dramatic situation there. His appeal to servicemen stationed on Baltic territory was to all intents and purposes an appeal to us not to carry out our constitutional duty and not to follow our commanders' orders.

B.N. Yeltsin's statement about the need to create a Russian Army is alarming. The question arises: For what purpose and against whom are they planning to use it? Any breaking up of the Armed Forces into groups of nationalities will not only undermine the state's defense capability but could also intensify interethnic strife. We advocate united multinational Armed Forces for the entire Soviet Union!

The appeal from B.N. Yeltsin and the leaders of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia to the United Nations to examine the situation in Lithuania is perplexing. We view this as an appeal for outside interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs!

In his speeches B.N. Yeltsin has assessed the current events here as "attempts by reaction to thwart the democratization process." What the "democratization process" in the Baltic actually means is shown by the position people of the nonnative nationality—including servicemen—have been placed.

We servicemen are disparagingly referred to as "occupiers" and looked upon as second-class citizens. In 1990 the republics' supreme organs of power adopted more than 30 acts of legislation infringing the legal rights of servicemen and their family members.

Measures are being taken to restrict, if not curtail, supplies of power, heat, water, and food to military units. Republic and some local authorities have been refusing either to allocate housing to servicemen and their families or to register them, and are not allowing military units to build housing themselves. Our families do not receive food coupons, our wives have no chance of getting a job, and our children have no chance of getting places at children's institutions or schools. Moreover, in a number of places the local authorities have been demanding payments of 600-1,500 rubles in return for educating the children of servicemen.

The violation of servicemen's constitutional rights and freedoms has been accompanied by the belittling of their honor and dignity. There have been increasing threats of reprisals against them and their families. Extremists

have made more than 70 attacks against military installations. On 18 occasions these attacks have been against sentries. Explosives have been detonated on and near the territory of military units.

Yet can we react calmly to the defiling of tombs and memorials to servicemen who perished in the battles to liberate the Baltic during the Great Patriotic War, to the destruction of statues of V.I. Lenin, or to the erection of obelisks to SS storm troopers, fascist accomplices, and the "forest brothers" [Baltic counterrevolutionaries]? All this merely confirms the anti-Soviet and essentially antipeople course taken by the leaders of the Baltic republics.

B.N. Yeltsin considers the organizers and inspirers of these unprecedented actions to be democrats, while those who are being deprived of their basic human rights and humiliated are considered to be reactionary forces. The leader of the Russian parliament has a strange idea of democracy.

The anticonstitutional actions by the authorities and extremist elements are provoking a natural protest. Our patience is at an end and, if the proper measures are not taken, we will be forced to defend ourselves and our families, our honor and dignity. This could have unpredictable consequences.

We know that the command of the Baltic Military District and Baltic Fleet has appealed to the republics' Supreme Soviets and leaders to find a constructive solution to the problems that have built up and to end the discrimination against servicemen. Military collectives have sent in dozens of appeals. However, they have gone unanswered.

All this forces us to appeal to you, Comrade President, and to people's deputies to demand not only that all laws and resolutions contravening the Constitution and laws of the USSR be annulled, but that the implementation of the Constitution and laws of the USSR be safeguarded in practice. We will not continue to be the butt of malicious slander and defamation from national-separatist and resurgent neofascist forces. We cannot tolerate our wives and children being taken hostage by brazen terrorist groupings.

We demand an end to the slights against the Army, the whipping up of anti-Army propaganda, and the malicious attempts to split our Armed Forces.

We support the USSR president's appeal to the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, we are counting on concrete action to normalize the situation in Lithuania and the other Baltic republics, and we are prepared to actively promote this.

Eighty percent of the personnel at Baltic Fleet units and garrisons deployed on the Baltic republics' territories took part in the discussion of this letter and support it.

Baltic Republics

Lithuania

Landsbergis, Poland's Kuron News Conference 17 Jan

LD1801234691 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[News conference by Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuanian Supreme Council chairman, and Jacek Kuron, Polish Sejm deputy, with unidentified correspondents at the Supreme Council building in Vilnius—live, Kuron speaks in Polish with subsequent translation into Lithuanian]

[Excerpts] [Deputy Azubalis] Today it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our news conference guest, Jacek Kuron, esteemed deputy of the Polish Sejm, whose name has for a long time [words indistinct] against the totalitarian system. [passage omitted]

[Landsbergis] May I have one question? [words indistinct] work with the Russian delegation, Lithuanian and Russian [word indistinct].

[Landsbergis] The result of our discussion, I think I can say, is a high degree of interpersonal agreement. Georgiy Tarasevich has also met with the Lithuanian prime minister, visited our government, and met with the commanders of the military forces who are currently in charge of various military operations in Lithuania.

Following this we saw each other briefly and I was not able to learn in great detail about [word indistinct] the contents of the conversation. Perhaps I can do that somewhat later today. [Word indistinct] is very busy and I can simply only now say that I am satisfied that he has come with official authorization from the USSR Supreme Soviet, an individual delegated by President Gorbachev.

He is continuing the mission with which the USSR delegation has come here. The existence of this type of link with the Kremlin and the possibility of having a political individual from the confronting side, and not only the military, provides more of an opportunity to agree and to avoid certain extremes on the part of the attacking side. I would like to express that we will be able to [words indistinct].

[Azubalis] We thank the chairman and now we invite questions for esteemed Jacek Kuron.

[Kuron] I think that one can never say that all possibilities have been exhausted. The matter is as follows. In 1980 we in Solidarity said the following: We will not win with them if it comes to fisticuffs. We must win with them through something other than force. With force they will always have greater force.

When I look here at these boys with shotguns who are standing on the roof then I know they must stand here. But they have only one strength—they are ready to die. It is not how many they will kill, it is that they are ready to give their lives. I am sorry that this is so banal but after all if this is to succeed with the help of batons then it will be a minor local conflict, if one can pacify Lithuania with the help of batons, and no one will even give it a second glance.

Here, when Landsbergis and his friends have sat down and said [words indistinct] must kill (?us), the children came and said: We will die together with you. Thus, they addressed the conscience of the world. It transpired that the world has a conscience. That is why I feel that this is the most important place in the world, here. Here we can in solidarity be victorious over tanks, over assaults, over machine guns, over the most modern weapons. I will say more. We must win, we will surely win.

The question is only whether we will pay this cost with the lives of those who sit here or not. That is why we Polish legislators have said: We will be with you, and we have been here since Sunday, on rotas. If they come to kill you they will have to kill us too. We cannot assist you with tanks. We can only, just like you, give our lives for our mutual (?cause).

I want to say one more thing. We are now taking an exceptionally difficult test. I see my friend here, (?Mikhail Barynya), who is, well I sat inside for nine years [words indistinct], and he probably did 12 years, yes? He did 12 years. We Belorussians, Poles, and Europeans are now facing an exceptionally difficult test. [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

[Landsbergis] Perhaps I will answer my own question. The events in the Persian Gulf, of course we know, have an impact on events in Lithuania. This, this scenario of the [word indistinct] of the events in Lithuania did not go totally in accordance with the plan—the way it had been prepared. Perhaps it had not been foreseen that our Supreme Council would decrease prices and so quickly return—that is, abolish the government resolution, that it would change the government so swiftly; that it would act so resolutely and change the situation.

Moreover, [words indistinct] perhaps also that plan and those victims were brought about at a time when the world was not yet occupied with events in the Persian Gulf crisis. We were helped by the fact that we broke the scenario that had been prepared ahead of time, and we succeeded in calling the world's attention sooner. Moreover, I think even more that the superiority of U.S. technology, in comparison to Soviet technology is so great, and that the Persian Gulf war perhaps will not last very long. Perhaps the Persian Gulf events will not overwhelm the events in Lithuania after all. [passage indistinct] [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Addresses Supreme Council 18 Jan

Urges Protest of 'Occupation Army'

LD1801135291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1103 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report by TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius, 18 Jan (TASS)—Vytautas Landsbergis, the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Republic, has suggested to the legislature of the republic today to make "an official protest against the arbitrariness of the occupation army in Lithuania." At the morning session of the legislature, Vidmantas Povilionis, deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, has lodged a protest in connection with his detention by the military on 17 January. Vytautas Landsbergis announced that in connection with this incident he has protested to the Vilnius Garrison commander by telephone. The head of legislature stated that "the USSR Internal Troops which are being introduced allegedly for keeping order, represent a big danger".

Vytautas Landsbergis has also announced that the republican procuracy has "instituted criminal proceedings against Vladislav Shved, deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, for libel. (V. Shved is second secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee). Saying that this deputy "is probably engaged in anti-state activities", Vytautas Landsbergis has invited the Supreme Soviet "to discuss the question of suspending his deputy's credentials."

At the morning session, Ceslovas Stankevicius, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, informed the deputies about talks with the Russian Federation delegation headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, the plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Supreme Soviet, which were held on Thursday. He said, in particular, that the major part of the text of the treaty between the Lithuanian Republic and the RSFSR has already been prepared and agreed upon, and that the sides are intending to continue this work and to complete it in the near future.

Urges Ouster of Deputy Shved

LD1801130191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 0844 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Remarks by Lithuanian Supreme Council President Vytautas Landsbergis at the Lithuanian Supreme Council Session in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] Good morning, esteemed deputies. I wish to dwell on some problems and comment on some events. First of all, about the arrest of Deputy Povilionis and mockery. This morning I phoned General Uskhopchik and he confirmed that the patrols in the city and [words indistinct] at night is under his supervision. Thus he is directly responsible for what is happening in these places. I lodged a protest with him and demanded that he inform us of who the major was that lead the mockery, etc. [passage omitted]

The deputy general procurator has arrived from the Soviet Union. He desires cooperation with our general procurator in investing the crimes of 13 January. [passage omitted] When there is talk of curfew, it is illegal. A state of emergency, or something like it has not be proclaimed. It is illegal even according to the Soviet Union's laws. [passage omitted]

The aim of this fury, which has been observed not for just one night already and which is increasing in its forms and impudence, is sufficiently obvious: It is terror and provocation. The aim of the executor and the person giving orders is for people to feel (?helpless) against military power which behaves as it wishes, to gradually break the people's spirit and have them submit to brutal force. And provocation. If somebody resists, not necessarily with weapons, which are carried by the officials and their duty is to defend citizens who are attacked, and attackers, the plunderers and those who seize motor vehicles, whether they are in civilian clothes or in military uniforms, they with the certificates [passage indistinct]. Any bandit in a military uniform can do anything now. [passage omitted] But, of course, a person can react to insulted dignity. General Yazov has given an order to shoot if the dignity of the Soviet soldier is insulted. This a great danger and opens the chance of mutual casualties. We can advise our people not to react, not allow themselves to (?act dangerously), but we cannot guarantee that this will not happen.

Therefore we must protest against the situation itself which is dangerous to the lives of people, to their health and property.

The interior army which is now being introduced to maintain the alleged order is in reality the greatest danger to order. Because order in Lithuania is being maintained by the discipline, understanding of our citizens, the activity of our state organs. This should be stated very clearly in some kind of a document today, and I think we should lodge an official state protest to the Soviet Union's president and the high command of his Army.

The public and local governments should register all the harm that has been and is being done by the occupation army, both material damage and other. This should be done for the future reparations which will have to paid by the state or its army, and also in a moral and political sense the harm must be registered.

Information must be accumulated and supplied to our and international public opinion. [passage omitted]

Another problem which is urgent is that Supreme Council Deputy Shved is abroad. We are familiar with his actions here, it was mentioned here today, linking it with falsification and slander on the Soviet television. [passage omitted] He is man against whom criminal

proceedings have begun. [passage omitted]. I think that at least the suspension of his deputy mandate should be considered. [passage omitted]

I repeat the news that Shved is in Paris. There is no doubt that this is not a tourist trip, that he has propaganda aims to influence public opinion, justify the Soviet Army's crimes in Lithuania. There may also be more refined and [word indistinct] steps, because Shved may speak to people who are not well aware of the events using his title as a deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Council and his mandate.

Therefore, as I said, the question of his mandate should be considered and, maybe, our lawyers can submit their proposals.

Since the war is being waged by various possible means, especially great attention will be devoted to the propaganda side, and so-called brainwashing. We already see an exceptionally effective ability in creating a Western style film on the alleged attack on and heroic selfdefense by Soviet militiamen. There will be many such things. But our talk and translations must be politically cautious and adhering to certain limits. I have already spoken about it citing some examples. Maybe we will hold some kind of meeting of chief editors, or something like this. I wish now to appeal to all active and loyal journalists to be very careful about the texts they prepare for publication, so that they look at their text also with the eyes of a possible enemy, whether they could be used against Lithuania in any political, psychological, and other [word indistinct].

Thank you.

CP's Shved Speaks at Paris News Conference

LD1801195191 Moscow TASS in English 1840 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Knab]

[Text] Paris January 18 TASS—At a press conference here today, Second Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Vladislav Shved spoke about the deep economic, political and social crisis plaguing Lithuania. He dwelt in detail about the current events in Lithuania and the reasons behind them.

Shved emphasised that the tragic events of January 12-13 were sparked by the increase in prices on food and consumer goods, announced by the Lithuanian Government. However, a key underlying cause was the non-constructive policy pursued by the republican parliament. This policy caused the division of society, gave rise to fear and non-confidence in the morrow and led to the subsequent confrontation.

Shved said that the Lithuanian Communist Party opposed the use of force and favoured a peaceful settlement of the crisis through negotiations.

"We think that Lithuania can be independent within the renewed union. Until recent events, the popularity of this point of view was mounting. People should now be given an opportunity to come to themselves," Shved said. As for the union policy, it aimed, above all, to prevent the destabilisation of the situation, according to Shved.

K. Surblis, doctor of science (history), was among the participants in the news conference. He presented his own assessment of the events in Lithuania. He said a war of laws—union, republican and local—was now underway. Union laws are not honoured in republics and republican laws are not enacted by local governing bodies. Hence, lawlessness, impatience and violence. "All residents of Lithuania should now be given an opportunity to express their will and this will of the people should be law for all of us," Surblis stressed.

During their visit to France, the Lithuanian delegation had talks with a group of Communists in France's National Assembly and with editors of the L'HUMANITE newspaper.

A meeting was organised with former industry minister and French Republican Party leader Alain Madelin. The delegation also conferred with representatives of the French communist Party and the French socialist party. In the National Assembly, the delegation met deputy Michel Pelchat, who deals with problems related to the Baltic republics.

Rumors of Shved's Departure Denied

LD1901161191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius, 19 Jan (TASS)—The information agency of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee has rejected rumors that certain officials of the apparat of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee have left the republic in connection with events unfolding here.

These rumors concerned, among others, Vladislav Shved, second secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, who at the present moment is on official business in France, where he is taking part in meetings with representatives of the public and the media, the TASS correspondent was told at the information agency of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

Kryuchkov Praises Troop Behavior in Lithuania

LD1801222691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report by A. Kraminov in Moscow on 18 January; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Vladimir Aleksandrovich Kryuchkov, chairman of the USSR Committee for State Security, met Muscovites today in the capital's House of Political Education.

[Kartimov] It was not a specially selected audience and admittance was free. In the foyer there was a small exhibition. All of the exhibits were genuine, designed to illustrate the intrigues of enemy special services. They were also designed to confirm that the KGB remains the state's reliable shield. But, it seems to me, the audience in the hall was more interested to find out how the KGB is doing in its capacity of the sword, and questions asked were mostly about the possibility of retribution. Under discussion were not only interethnic conflicts but also people who called themselves democrats, entrepreneurs, and those who intend to emigrate from the country. The main subject discussed, naturally, was the events in Lithuania.

[Video shows Kryuchkov on the rostrum speaking to meeting] [Begin Kryuchkov recording] I would like to say the following. You know our lads—let us discard all other aspects of the issue—have behaved as they were supposed to. They were not the ones who fired the first shot. They used blanks. They tried to do their best to prevent disturbances. So these disturbances were provoked by those who were obviously interested in this bloody conflict. [end recording]

[Kraminov] I do not know to what extent you can sense this from your screens, but here in the hall one can feel how stirred up and how worked up society is. Every issue became a speech here. And the emotions that colored the speeches were more important for the audience than the answers received in response to the questions.

Treaty With RSFSR To Be Signed in 'Few Days'

LD1801123191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1048 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Another report from the ELTA News Agency: In the next few days a treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation may be signed, said Vytautas Landsbergis at a news conference yesterday.

This was also confirmed by Anatoliy Mostovoy and Fedor Shirov, deputies of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, who took part in the conference [words indistinct]. Both deputies have been empowered by Boris Yeltsin to agree a draft treaty, of which two versions have been elaborated. During the preparation of the treaty, our views differed on citizenship, said Anatoliy Mostovoy. When Lithuania chose the zero option for citizenship, the problem fell away; there are no other differences of principle. The possibility is not excluded that Boris Yeltsin will come for the signing of the treaty.

Special Militia Unit Sides With Union

LD1801162391 Moscow TASS in English 1527 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Vilnius January 18 TASS— A special operations militia unit headed by Militia Captain Boleslav Makutinovich has been temporarily subordinated to the commander of the Vilnius Garrison of the USSR Interior Ministry Troops. Makutinovich's picture with the inscription "traitor to Lithuania, traitor to us" can be seen on building walls throughout Vilnius. His life is in danger: The Lithuanian department of land defence sentenced him to death in absentia.

Asked whether he felt that the threat to his life was "for real", the captain told TASS: "The threat is there. It is their method. I am amazed at how people sometimes refuse to see the obvious, or are reluctant to recognise facts. We have all been watching developments in Lithuania and saw their tendencies. There was talk about democracy, prosperity and sovereignty at the outset, but the outcome is dictatorship, bourgeois or nationalistic".

"Our special operations unit," Makutinovich said, "was set up and equipped on orders from the USSR Interior Ministry. At first we took part in good things: hunting down armed criminals, cooperating with the KGB, preventing crimes.

"But as interethnic tension began to mount in the republic, the character of our assignments changed. Attempts were made to use us in dirty political games and make us clash with the Army.

"Here is one instance. The city authority decided to remove a commemorative plaque from the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee building. Workers protested and pickets were placed at the building. Sajudists blocked the pickets. Workers asked an Army unit to help. And then we were brought in. But we are Soviet militia. We must not counteract soldiers who are doing their duty on orders from their lawful commander.

"Events grew much more dramatic in mid-January. Following the resignation of the Lithuanian prime minister, Vilnius working people converged on the square in front of the Lithuanian parliament. We stopped them without once taking our rubber sticks out. But behind our backs at that time, fire bombs, metal pipes and rods were being prepared and sharp shooters were taking their places.

"My men are ready to fight. The situation in Lithuania makes everyone take sides. You just can't stay above the battle and while away the time," Makutinovich said.

Garrison Commander Seeks To 'Defuse' Situation

PM1801143091 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jan 91 First Edition p 3

[Report by unnamed TASS correspondents from the Baltic region "yesterday" under the "Direct Line" rubric: "...But the Situation Is Tense"]

[Text] The attention of the world's mass media is focused on Lithuania and in particular on the situation in its capital—Vilnius. What is the situation now? TASS correspondents put that question to Major General V. Uskhopchik, chief of the Vilnius Garrison.

I should point out, he said, that the situation in Vilnius remains tense. And this is no accident. Apart from the fact that the Sajudis leaders accomplished a political coup, they also began hastily to set up structures of their own, including military formations. In these formations there are now thousands of people with various kinds of foreign-made weapons.

These actions by the Lithuanian leadership led to the republic falling into the grip of political and economic crisis. Of course, the culminating point was the night of 12-13 January. The confrontation outside the Supreme Council and television center buildings and the television tower could have led to large-scale bloodshed. To prevent this, units of the Vilnius Garrison adopted resolute measures. Patrolling was organized in the garrison. Furthermore, in order to impose order at these facilities, troop subunits were sent there, in their regular structure. The situation was becoming more heated every moment. For instance, as our subunits and the workers' militias approached the television tower, automatic gunfire began to issue from there. People were also firing from nearby apartment blocks and ravines. This was the main cause of the clash, and that was what led to the casualties.

As a result we were forced to impose a curfew in Vilnius. There are now checkpoints where we are searching all vehicles entering or leaving the city for weapons, ammunition, and explosives. Apart from that, we are seeking ways to somehow defuse the situation.

Military Said To Seek 'Pretext' for Incident

LD1801134191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1211 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius, 18 Jan (TASS)—The situation both in the capital of Lithuania and the Republic has not changed overnight. One gets the impression that the military are trying to find any pretext for an incident. That was what Mecislovas Atroskevicius, duty officer at the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lithuanian Republic, told your TASS correspondent.

He said that, in spite of the promises given by the representatives of the command of the military garrison to legislative deputies in the presence of members of the delegation of the USSR Council of the Federation to the effect that "they would not interfere in the town's civil affairs and that patrols would remain ordinary, they failed to keep their word." Last night, according to the duty officer, the military detained members of a motor inspectorate patrol, disarmed them, and took them to the military commandant's office, where they were made to stand with "hands behind their heads". Only after Interior Ministry representatives arrived did they returned their arms and let the detained motor inspectors go. In the words of the duty officer, "there are complaints about the military also detaining civilians and cars, behaving in a rude and provocative manner, and taking things from people".

Citing the national defense department, "the Radio of Independent Lithuania" reported today that "the military have started to implement the action aimed at the compulsory seizure of young people for the Soviet Army" and advised the young people "to be cautious".

Leonas Asmontas, minister of power engineering of the Lithuanian Republic, appealed to the residents of the town of Snieckus not to submit to those "who are calling for strikes" since disruption to the operation of an atomic power station, for example, is fraught with "new Chernobyls."

Deputy Protests Mistreatment

LD1801132591 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 0833 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Statement by Deputy Vidmantas Povilionis to the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius—live]

[Text] To the general procurator of the Republic of Lithuania, Arturas Paulauskas. A statement by Vidmantas Povilionis, deputy of the Lithuanian Supreme Council:

On 17 January 1991, at about 2210, at the Kaunas-Vilnius railway line, not far from Gariunai junction, an automobile belonging to the Supreme Council was stopped. In violation of the principle of deputy's immunity, I was threatened with a weapon and forced to leave the vehicle with my hands on my head. Together with the driver and with five disarmed police officials, I was kept in the cold for about two and one-half hours. All this time mockery aimed at the Lithuanian symbols and Lithuanian officials took place and a threat to use a weapon was made. We were brutally placed in a truck and, laying on the floor, were taken to the commandant's office, interrogated, and then released. A colonel, a lieutenant colonel, and a major failed to introduce themselves. I protest this behavior which is insulting to the honor and dignity of a deputy of the Lithuanian Republic. I demand that the culprits be established and correspondingly punished.

Officer Denies Troops Deserted in Vilnius

LD1801214891 Moscow TASS in English 2130 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius January 19 TASS—Lieutenant Colonel Shcherbakov, head of the Political Department of a paratrooper unit deployed in Vilnius, has described as a propaganda invention some mass media reports about alleged desertions from that unit.

"Our men fulfilled missions, connected with maintaining public order, on more than one occasion, standing like a wall between the warring sides. None of us has ever doubted the need and correctness of our actions," he said, commenting on the rumours in a TASS interview.

"We have no such problems as refusals to fulfil orders of the commander or attempts to call into question the correctness of our actions. This is felt by those who resort to circulating rumours and slander. I am confident that the attempts to denigrate us in the eyes of the people will fail".

Soldier Killed in Vilnius Identified as KGB

LD1801191491 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] There was an article in yesterday's IZVESTIYA about a paratrooper, Lieutenant Viktor Viktorovich Shatskikh, who was killed during the assault on the Vilnius Television Center. However, the command of the airborne troops and the Ministry of Defense have denied they have a lieutenant of that name on their books. So, who was the lieutenant who died in Vilnius representing? The public relations center of the USSR KGB disclosed today that Lt. Shatskikh was an exployee of the USSR KGB. He was part of a small group sent to Vilnius to help stabilize the situation in the city, within the limits of their powers. This information has been published by the Moscow evening edition of IZVESTIYA.

Interior Minister Denies Split in Police Force

LD1901122191 Vilnius International Service in English 2230 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Lithuanian Interior Minister Marijonas Misiukonis by unidentified correspondent, place and date not given, including recorded excerpts of Misiukonis' remarks in Lithuanian fading to superimposed translation to English, read by unidentified announcers]

[Text] [First announcer] As you heard in the news, a Lithuanian police car was attacked yesterday night by the military. A Radio Vilnius correspondent has been talking to the Lithuanian interior minister. So what is the situation in the Lithuanian police at present?

[Second announcer] Eight Lithuanian policemen defending the radio and television center in Vilnius were injured during the paratroopers' attack on Sunday. Their wounds are cuts, stabs with sharp objects, and bad bruises. This information was revealed today by the Lithuanian Minister of Internal Affairs Marijonas Misiukonis. Now these are the only losses of the Lithuanian police so far, if we do not count those 40 officials who deserted the special police units and walked over to collaborate with the Interior Ministry of the Soviet Union. The Lithuanian interior minister denied all possible rumors alleging that there was a split in the Lithuanian police. Marijonas Misiukonis said representatives of the police of Vilnius and Salcininkai Districts, where the population is predominantly non-Lithuanian, had come to Vilnius, like their colleagues from other parts of Lithuania, to help maintain public order and also investigate crime. Incidentally, crime rates have been markedly down these days, especially cases of [word indistinct]. As the interior minister said, there is no trouble with the police. Of much more great concern are actions by the military and those forces who, with the aid of armed soldiers, are seeking to topple the legitimate state authorities and then seize power. Radio Vilnius asked Minister Misiukonis whether any contacts were sought with the military.

[Misiukonis] We had one meeting with the military, but they are not in the habit of keeping their word. They would not listen to us. They even stop our policemen, take them into custody, or make attempts to disarm them. The military check our papers and search our police cars, here is an instance. A special police car was rushing from the center of Vilnius to one of its suburbs to help put out the fire and the military patrol stopped it. We have also other problems. The Soviet media are spreading misinformation, insinuating that our police are persecuting non-Lithuanians, shooting, strangling, killing them. Everything is done to hamper the Lithuanian police perform their duties properly. I understand the efforts are made to discredit our police and make them dependable again on a certain political force rather than making people observe the laws of the republic and strictly abide by them themselves. Attempts are made now to drive in a wedge among our staff on ethnic grounds, and in general much is done by anti-independent forces in this complex period to make the Lithuanian police inactive.

[First announcer] Asked whether he did not try to get into contact with the Soviet interior minister, Boris Pugo, the Lithuanian interior minister said this.

[Misiukonis] I did not have direct contact with the Soviet interior minister, but last week when our special police unit was attacked by the military in Vilnius, I found his office in the middle of the night and asked that the minister should get in touch with the Defense Minister Yazov and help settle the problem. And now I am planning to meet with the commanders of the Vilnius Garrison and with the deputy interior minister of the Soviet Union, General Demidov. We are meeting to

discuss all debatable issues and if we manage to understand one another a certain agreement may be reached, I think. In case of failure we are resolved to make a statement in the Soviet press so that people there might see that we are working here in Lithuania and that our police should not be bullied or their work hampered in this complicated situation. All obstruction must be stopped, like hostile propaganda, ideological attacks, misinformation and the like.

[First announcer] When the Radio Vilnius correspondent asked the Lithuanian Interior Minister Marijonas Misiukonis whether he was offered to walk over to the other side, under the subordination of the Soviet Interior Ministry, or whether he was blackmailed in any way, he answered his position had firmly taken shape back in spring last year when he pledged loyalty to the Lithuanian Government. He said no one had tried to (?talk) him over to some other side. And even if they had that would have been futile.

Minister Asks Nuclear Plant Workers Not To Strike

LD1801121391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1048 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Here is an appeal from Leonas Asmantas, minister of energy of the Republic of Lithuania. It is addressed to inhabitants of the town of Snieckus to workers at the nuclear power station. This is what is said in the text of the appeal:

I appeal to you at a fateful moment not only for the inhabitants of Lithuania, but for all peoples of the USSR. Reactionary forces, taking advantage of economic difficulties, are trying to overthrow the lawful authorities of Lithuania which are supported by the majority of the inhabitants and recognized by all progressive forces of the Soviet Union. This provocation has already been condemned by the governments of many countries, political parties, and the public of the world. The reactionaries are trying to carry out their dirty schemes, trying to organize strikes, and trying to interrupt the activity of enterprises and calm among the population.

It is offensive that they are also trying to draw the workforce of the Ignalina nuclear power station into this plot. The imposter Mykolas Burokevicius hopes that he will succeed by means of inciting the workforce to interrupt their work. It is sufficient to explain that nuclear power station is an unusually dangerous installation, and any interruption of its working regime is a danger not only for the residents of nearby places, but also for neighboring peoples. Its security is insured not only by technical means, but also by the high qualifications of the staff, well-organized work, and strict discipline.

The creation of various organizations pursuing a variety of political aims, their confrontation, the help of outsiders or organizations to individual groups breaks up the workforce and disorganizes the work of the power station, and presents a great danger to completely innocent residents. Such activity contradicts recognized international practice and is forbidden. We are reminded of this by the frightful Chernobyl tragedy.

Therefore, do not respond to calls from the so-called strike committee, in which there are outsiders with dubious reputations without responsibility or conscience. I ask you conscientiously and honestly to carry out your duties, to insure security and smooth working of the power station. I believe that you will fulfill your human duty, and will not bring shame on the name of the Russian and other peoples and will be sensitive to the full responsibility of a nuclear power station worker.

National Salvation Committee 'Political Statement'

LD1801181391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1616 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius, 18 Jan (TASS)—The Lithuanian National Salvation Committee has made a political statement. It points out that the committee's activities "are temporary, limited to the resolution of the following urgent tasks":

The full restoration of the USSR Constitution and the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Constitution on Lithuanian territory on the basis of social and ethnic reconciliation; the equality of rights and the exclusion of vengeance for political activities in the opposing group; the deepening of democracy by involving labor collectives in the political process and including their representatives in state power organs and administrations; the resumption of economic relations with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Soviet republics in the interest of averting the total collapse of the Lithuanian economy and preparing conditions for its phased transition to socialist market relations; participation in the elaboration of a Union treaty on the basis of recognizing the Lithuanian SSR's sovereignty and independence; the organization of a referendum on Lithuania's future status; the implementation of emergency measures for the social protection of the population, including halting the activities of corrupt and mafia groups, the shadow economy, and the black market; and the organization of democratic elections to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet on a multiparty basis.

After this, the National Salvation Committee will lay down its plenary powers.

Salvation Committee Member Answers Questions

PM1801173791 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Interview with unidentified member of the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and SELSKAYA ZHIZN special correspondents A. Orlov and V. Simonenkov, datelined Vilnius,

17 January, under the general heading "Situation in the Baltic": "'Until Parliament Resigns'"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] This was not a face-to-face interview. The Lithuanian National Salvation Committee is now essentially an underground organization. The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and SELSKAYA ZHIZN special correspondents are so far the only people to have received answers to their questions via Professor Yu. Yermolavichyus, the committee's communications official. The answers were given by a committee member who, for reasons of personal safety, wished to remain anonymous.

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] Both inside and outside Lithuania there has been a rumor that the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee is allegedly a mythical organization with no actual members. How did this secrecy come about?

[Committee member] The Lithuanian National Salvation Committee is by no means mythical—it is a perfectly real organization that has shouldered the heavy burden of responsibility for the fate of Lithuania so as to save and preserve it as a Soviet socialist republic and part of the renewed USSR on the basis of the new Union Treaty. It operates in an entirely independent, planned, and active fashion, striving to rapidly and effectively resolve all the issues dictated by the logic of the struggle for the aims set by the National Salvation Committee.

To the question why such deep secrecy is necessary, I would try to reply by citing just one typical example in the current political situation. Literally on 16 January an anonymous caller to the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, speaking on behalf of some grouping calling itself "Retribution," officially stated that a number of people had been sentenced to death and read out a whole list of the "doomed." The list, apart from specific names of a number of leaders and senior officials of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, also included "all members of the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee." Given the treachery and cunning of the Landsbergis group and its enforcement organs—which, as you can see for yourselves, have been acting in the worst traditions of the Hitlerite secret police and the Mafia syndicates in the West—it would be thoughtless at the very least not to take such a statement seriously.

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] And yet who are the committee members? Without naming names, we are interested in its social and ethnic makeup as well as its size.

[Committee member] In answer to your question I think I can only say that the National Salvation Committee represents all the main social strata of the republic—workers, kolkhoz [collective farm] members, and representatives of the progressive intelligentsia. Together with Lithuanians it includes representatives of all the other main nationalities living on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. But as for the size of the committee, it is big enough to be able to resolve in timely fashion all the tasks currently facing it.

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] The Lithuanian Government is already blaming the events on the committee. Do you consider it possible to accept those accusations?

[Committee member] I would put it to you like this: Politicians with dirty hands, like any murderers, have always used the method of pinning the blame on others. The Landsbergises have not invented anything new. The only new element is surely that they are organizing and conducting their provocation, lies, and slander in a more sophisticated way, to use the official jargon, at a higher level than their predecessors. For example, Goebbels' propagandists. Times are different now. First and foremost, the technical potential of the mass media has grown immeasurably. Second, can "our" present-day professors, lawyers, and other intellectuals, reared on the fertile soil of decades of Soviet power in Lithuania really be compared with Hitler's idiots? The present-day rulers of Lithuania furthermore clearly have experienced advisers, which their aforementioned predecessors and ideological fathers did not.

In brief, we, the representatives of all strata of the republic's population, know what a pernicious influence the unbridled and increasingly fierce nationalist anti-Soviet, antisocialist, and separatist propaganda conducted around the clock on television and radio, in countless newspapers, and in other Sajudis-type periodicals have had on the inhabitants, particularly on the young. All this recently has developed into overt appeals for direct armed struggle. This was and, unfortunately, still is the source of the main danger to the future of the Lithuanian people and all inhabitants of our republic. It is for this reason of course that the newly emerged National Salvation Committee saw its task as being to put an end to the deception of the people and by peaceful and political means, furthermore.

You cannot say everything about the way this was done and what actually happened in a single interview. An investigation is under way. Soon the people will learn the full truth about who is really to blame for the tragic events that occurred.

For my part I can say right now that this bloody provocation is the handiwork of the Landsbergis clique and unfortunately it succeeded. Admittedly, it succeeded because the actions of the internal troops and workers' volunteer militia whom we summoned for help in the event that our political efforts failed were not irreproachable.

[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA] Anonymous.... How long can that go on?

[Committee member] It will all depend on how events in the republic develop in the future. Undoubtedly it will last as long as the Landsbergis clique remains in power, until the present reactionary parliament resigns, or until direct USSR presidential rule is introduced in the

republic. Furthermore, I have to say that each day of delay on implementing the aforementioned measures inevitably increases the likelihood of increasing casualties. You have to suffer from political blindness to still believe today in the possibility of any negotiation with fanatics who have literally entrenched themselves in the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Council building in the very heart of ancient Vilnius itself.

Further on Salvation Committee Appeal to People

PM1801141991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Appeal to USSR Peoples"]

[Text] Vilnius, 16 Jan—The Lithuanian National Salvation Committee has adopted an appeal to the population of the Soviet Union which states, in particular: "On behalf of the majority of Lithuanian people—workers, peasants, working intelligentsia, representatives of the various nationalities—we are revealing the truth about events in the republic.

"On 11 March 1990 a bourgeois-nationalist grouping of Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet deputies carried out a legislative coup. Under the diligent eyes of Western secret services Lithuania became the bridgehead for a 'peaceful' offensive against the USSR aimed at breaking it up and restoring capitalism. Here, in Lithuania, many national-'democrats' and CPSU renegades who in the past had labored tirelessly to set up the hateful administrative-bureaucratic system but were now making political capital out of criticizing it in opposition 'democratic' formations embarked upon an antisocialist reeducation campaign.

"In reality, the Lithuanian leadership is at the forefront of other 'democrats' in its destructive work. Nationalist hysteria, Russophobia, and relentless calls to do battle with the 'Soviet empire' for the sake of Lithuania's resurrection are being whipped up to the accompaniment of the Sajudis mass media's defeaning clamor about the Soviet Army's occupation of Lithuania.

"A dyarchy has now been established in Lithuania: the power of the bourgeois-nationalist Supreme Soviet and the power of the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee. This dyarchy cannot endure and may end at any moment in large-scale civilian bloodshed. To prevent this, the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee, guided by the resolutions adopted at large rallies and meetings of the working people, has appealed to the USSR president to implement the decision of the Third Congress of USSR People's Deputies on restoring the operation of the USSR and Lithuanian SSR Constitutions on Lithuanian territory by introducing direct presidential rule in the republic."

The committee has called upon the republic's workers, engineers, and technicians "to take power in the enterprises into their own hands and set up organizations of the National Salvation Committee styled on the revolutionary soviets of workers' deputies, which must become the primary cell of state power in Lithuania, and to purge the collectives of the thieves who are misappropriating the people's property under the flag of privatization."

Prunskiene on Prospects of Salvation Committee

LD1801192691 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius January 18 TASS—The explosive situation in Lithuania "will not last long, as the Lithuanian National Salvation Committee will not become the master of the situation in the republic," former Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene told a news conference here today.

Prunskiene, whose government resigned on January 8, said her cabinet was "strong and competent," while attacks on her and her ministers "belonged to a well-designed and elaborate scenario."

Moscow TV Reviews Vilnius Situation

LD1801210391 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report by correspondent I. Minayev in Vilnius; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Minayev] There were no excesses in Vilnius last night. The anxious forecasts about possible disturbances—after all, thousands and thousands of people went onto the streets of the city to take leave of their fellow citizens who perished—fortunately were not realized.

On the surface everything is calm in Vilnius today. There are no shots in the city's streets but telephones are ringing incessantly in homes and in party committees. Not for nothing is it said that malevolent tongues are more terrible than pistols. What must people feel who are endlessly frightened, blackmailed, and insulted? [passage omitted] And why talk of Communists, of dissidents who do not share the view of the legislature and its chairman when, as came to light at today's press conference, which became the sensation of the day, even the former prime minister of Lithuania, non-party member Kazimiera Prunskiene is also receiving threats.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Is it true that yesterday you appealed to the minister of internal affairs of Lithuania to allocate protection to you?

[Prunskiene] Yes, that is true, because I am being threatened with violence.

[Unidentified correspondent] Since when?

[Prunskiene] The same rostrum, specifically, the person of Antanas Terleckas and also those kind people who are telephoning. Moreover, leaflets are being distributed which formulate a version of treachery. Such, for

instance, is the view given in the new leaflet which is being distributed around deputies, that is to say, among deputies, among the defense which is in the legisalture and also around it. [end recording]

[Minayev] The Committee for National Salvation proposed that the department for the protection of the country disband the armed formations. In reply, the legislature of the republic adopted a decision on the creation of a volunteer Lithuanian army. Its aim is to guarantee security, maintain order, and protect important state and economic installations.

The Vilnius television tower undoubtedly is among such installations. We were here, today. Interior Troops have replaced the paratroopers guarding the tower. These soldiers and officers, just like their forebears, came here under orders, which, as is known, are not discussed in the Army, but are carried out. And they are conscientiously carrying out orders; they are on 24-hour duty.

Traces of battle and destruction are everywhere in the building of the television tower; windows, doors and furniture are smashed. They lie beside untouched, practically idyllic corners of paradise.

The soldiers are tidying up and they are not carrying bodies of the dead in these large sacks—such suppositions have been voiced from the rostrum of the parliament—but ordinary garbage.

What you see here is not preparations for firing. The optical sight plays the role of a spy-glass, or let us say, of binoculars. The soldiers are watching for snipers, which, as they maintain, they have seen on more than one occasion on the roof of neighboring houses. Thank goodness there have not been any shots so far from either side.

I do not think that these lads want to spend their time doing such things. For instance, they would much prefer to listen to music than the revving of armored personnel carrier engines or the curses of pickets.

The tower is operational. Vilnius is watching both the first all-Union and its own television programs.

Not just republican but also central newspapers can be bought in kiosks. They, as well as TASS and the central television, are reproached for interpreting events in the republic in an unobjective and biased way.

Let us try to get to the bottom of just one situation. A great deal is being said and written of Lieutenant Colonel Tarkhanov who called on servicemen not to serve aggression. Some of the mass media reported that his call allegedly had an effect. [passage omitted]

What did actually happen? We decided to carry out our own investigation, and this is what came to light. There is such a Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Ivanovich Tarkhanov, but he really does not figure in the Vilnius garrison personnel lists. The fact of the matter is that he works as a military representative at a defense factory. No instances of servicemen failing to execute orders have been registered. Thus, the report by the press center of the Ministry of Defense transmitted by the Vremya program is absolutely true. [passage omitted]

Muscovites Blame Center for Lithuania Violence

LD1801195191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpts] I am [name indistinct], head of the Moscow section of the Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion. [passage omitted]

On 16 January in Russia, and separately in Moscow, a public opinion study was conducted. In Russia and in Moscow questions were asked on the events in Lithuania. Before talking about the results I want to say a few things on why the results from Moscow and Russia are to some degree different. [passage indistinct]

This question was asked: Do you approve of or condemn the military action in Lithuania? The following results were received: In Russia [words indistinct] 29 percent strongly approve [words indistinct].

Do they approve of Yeltsin's stance on the question of Lithuania? This question is very important in particular when all these campaigns are being carried out against Yeltsin. In Russia the results are as follows: Of those questioned, approximately two-thirds approved of Yeltsin's stance; in Moscow about 50 percent approved and 20 percent disapproved. [passage indistinct] The results are as follows: In Russia, are the events to be considered as the repetition of a dictatorship? Forty-two percent agree with this and 34 percent disagree with this. In Moscow—the discrepancy is sharper, 52 percent consider this a repetition and 27 percent do not.

The most important question was: Who should take responsibility for what took place in Lithuania? We asked the question: Who do you (?think) permitted the Army to use weapons? We received the following answers: About 70 percent of Moscovites think that permission for the Army to use weapons was given by the center and not by the local Army as suggested by what is published in all these official [words indistinct]. Not a very large percentage, only 5 percent of the people in Moscow believe that no one permitted the Army to use weapons, that they used them themselves [words indistinct] in the existing situation.

I want to say a few words about Nevzorov's film. Its propaganda aim is not very strong because the Russian people do not want to take responsibility for the executors of these acts.

Finally, the last question given was: What do you think—who is responsible for the actions carried out by the Army in Lithuania? We are speaking now of high moral responsibility. We received the following results: The largest percentage said the president is responsible—half of all Muscovites believe that the president is

responsible for the actions carried out by the Army in Lithuania. For the defense minister and other central powers all together—80 percent [words indistinct] about (?19) percent of Moscovites think that [words indistinct] those who fired. It must be said that 10 percent of Moscovites place the responsibilitty on the Lithuanians. The questions were answered differently but we collected them into one group—the fault lies on Lithuanians themselves, on the Supreme Council and on Landsbergis.

I want to turn to the most important result. The main result is that Muscovites understand very well that the main responsibility lies with the central structure, and the greatest responsibility lies on our president. These are the results of the public opinion poll we carried out on 16 January in Moscow and Russia.

Yeltsin Appeal to Baltics Broadcast 19 Jan

LD1901212391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 91

["Excerpts" from an open letter by Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet, to the people of the Baltic republics]

[Text] We are now going to read fragments from an open letter by Chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Boris Yeltsin to the Baltic people. The appeal is very long. I am going to read several key quotations.

Boris Yeltsin appeals in particular to those who carry arms. For the sake of the preservation of peace in the country, for the sake of the tranquillity of your relatives and of those close to you, do not give orders to send deadly firearms against the peaceful population. Do not shoot at unarmed people, he writes. Let the shots that echoed in Vilnius be the last ones.

Furthermore, the leader of the Russian legislature appeals to members of the party, and public movements: Make use of all your opportunities to stop the political struggle, at least at this peak time, he writes. Introduce a moratorium for the ultimatums to each other, at least for a month. The logic of political confrontations today is a direct blow to people whose interests you are called upon to express—for the sake of the preservation of civic peace not only in Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, but also in Russia and in other republics. Sit down at a roundtable, and work out without delay, at least a minimum of guarantees to preserve civic peace.

I appeal to those who pin their hopes on the strength of arms and military equipment, writes Yeltsin: Give up the monstrous illusion that it is possible with the help of these means to restore order and tranquility. Today they can only provoke conflicts, violence, and intimidations, and will only create violence in return, and hatred towards those both innocent and guilty. Calamities will be brought upon those intended to be defended. If the irreparable happens, there will be no happiness to a single nation. Boris Yeltsin dwelt on the problems of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic. The Russian legislature has detailed information on the situation of the Russians and of other people of non-native nationalities in the Baltic republics, he writes. Our attitude to this problem is clear and unambiguous. We oppose any form of discrimination in international relations. The Russian legislature and the government consider it their duty to make use of their opportunities to defend Russians outside the borders of their republics. But we are firmly convinced that the real guarantee for our compatriots beyond the borders of Russia will be ensured by us only when we have clear political and legal grounds in mutual relations with the republics and states. It is essential that each side has firm and clear obligations to each other, including those on the guarantees for the citizens, their rights and freedoms.

Agreements with Estonia and Latvia have been concluded, writes Boris Yeltsin. A similar agreement with the Republic of Lithuania is being prepared. All work on the defense of the Russian-speaking population in these republics, and correspondingly of their population on the territory of Russia, will be based on them. Yeltsin announced that at present the work is coming to an end on the preparation of an additional agreement on ensuring the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic, and the rights of Latvians, Lithuanians, and Estonians on the territory of Russia. In particular, Russian legations will be set up in the Baltic republics, dealing with the problems of the Russian-speaking population.

The greatest danger, writes the chairman of the Russian legislature, is represented by an accelerated line toward confrontation—toward, in fact, the overthrow of the legitimate organs of the government. Self-styled structures are being formed hastily, and in great secrecy aspiring to full power. They speak on behalf of the people, but hide from it in a cowardly manner. Already on the third day of the existence of the Lithuanian Salvation Committee, its secret leaders committed the worst possible crime, and warmed their hands with blood, sending the servicemen to a bloody struggle. They put in soldiers once again, and compelled them to kill. They have put the blame on them and diverted the anger of the people to them. Boris Yeltsin asked all the citizens of Lithuania and of other republics to display maximum restraint and strength of spirit. Try, even if it is very difficult, not to see the soldiers present in the Baltic as a blind and dark force. I appeal to you to see a human face in them. If they meet only hatred and curses, you will commit a moral error; even a man of strong will may break up.

Boris Yeltsin appealed to the workers and employees to think once and once again before making a decision on strikes, the start of one or another public action. I trust in your wisdom and life experience, he writes. I believe that you will not allow yourselves to be transformed into a

tool of reaction, which is striving today for power by illegal means as it is aware that it would not achieve this by legal means.

I want to appeal to every Lithuanian, every Latvian, every Estonian, and to every Russian in the Baltics, to peoples of all nations living in these republics—in order that Lithuania can live, that Latvia can live, that Estonia can live, that Russia can live. Do not permit conflicts on the grounds of interethnic relations. Each of these, even the smallest, the pettiest, the most commonplace, could today call forth a conflagration and turn out to be fatal. People of diverse nationalities, display the maximum tolerance towards one another, do not give way to provocations.

Landsbergis Address to Nation Broadcast 19 Jan

LD2001193191 Kaunus Radio Kaunus in Lithuanian 1913 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Address by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] Dear viewers and listeners, citizens of Lithuania, I would like to talk to you about how Lithuania appears today, within the panorama of world events, how the question of Lithuania is treated and what sort of assistance we have obtained and possess.

Here are some examples. What sort of reaction and support is shown for us by the world's nations—the large and the small ones.

Yesterday, the U.S. consul general, Mr. Miles, paid a visit to Lithuania, from Leningrad. He told us that what he had to tell us constitutes the position of the United States. This is the position jointly expressed by the State Department and the White House.

He told us: I wish to assure you that the United States of America is firmly standing with you. We have repeatedly told President Gorbachev that the nations of the Baltic states must have the right to determine their future freely and democratically. The wording is very concrete, of course, aspiring and demanding to seek a peaceful political solution, even after what happened, the solution of the conflict that exists [words indistinct] we would like for you to achieve independence, not a symbolic one, not only a rhetorical independence, but a real one.

That statement was made to us, by the United States and, apparently, it will also be issued elsewhere. Undoubtedly, it was made during telephone conversations with President Gorbachev.

We know that France has also made statements supporting Lithuania's independence. [passage indistinct] That is especially restraining for a possible brutal enemy. I have received official letters from Hungary and verbal explanations that Hungary proposes to open, in Budapest and Vilnius, equivalent parliamentary missions. That is a first step toward diplomatic relations established by the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Czechoslovakia made the same proposal, and we are exchanging papers on that question.

The ideas were also very much to the liking of the Polish senators, who you most likely saw on your screens.

These three countries, in general, understand us very well, since they themselves have suffered from totalitarian communist regimes, from the wantonness and violence of the Soviet Army, and they do not need much of an explanation. It is possible to share the experience.

Well, it is of interest that these three countries are now closely cooperating with more distant central European countries, Austria and Switzerland, who are rising to actively support us as never before. Thus, these central European states are now becoming an important, perhaps no less important, group than that of the Nordic countries, than the Nordic Council, and those states, which to date, have understood us very well and supported us.

Swedish legislators, and certain Norwegian legislators, did not receive visas and could not come to Lithuania until now. Consuls have visited here. The Swedish consul and the Canadian consul visited and, as I mentioned already, the United States consul visited here. They also did not come for just one day, to leave again for a long time, but intend to visit on a regular basis.

Those five central European states, which I have mentioned, now play an important role in European organizations. They very actively support Lithuania and the Baltics.

Well, from the Nordic countries we have a high-ranking guest today. This afternoon, the flags of Iceland were flown near our Supreme Council building. Iceland's foreign affairs minister, Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, is visiting Lithuania. He first visited the legislature, then the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and he will now return to the Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis: Assault Orders 'Anonymous'

AU1901143491 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius, Soviet Union, Jan 19 (AFP) — The orders for Soviet troops to carry out last week's storming of Lithuanian Television and Radio installations were anonymous and unsigned, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said on Friday [18 January].

Earlier, he said, military officials had handed over the written orders for the assault to Georgiy Tarazevich, a representative of the Soviet Council of the Federation who has served as a mediator between Lithuanian and Soviet military authorities.

"They were anonymous, unsigned documents," declared Mr. Landsbergis. "These documents prove that the curfew was illegally ordered."

Asked if military authorities had made demands during their meetings with Mr. Tarazevich, Mr. Landsbergis said "They are making no demands. They don't know what to do any more."

Mr. Landsbergis added that Mr. Tarazevich had shown "understanding" concerning the installation of barricades around the Lithuanian parliament. "He understood that it is up to the party which initiated the attack to take the first step," he said.

Earlier, Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius told reporters that "The strongest probability is that there will be no attack against the parliament."

The separatist daily REPUBLIKA on Saturday published a list of 11 persons, most of them Lithuanian Communist Party officials, who it said were "the leadership of the mysterious National Salvation Committee" which claimed to have taken power in Lithuania on Sunday.

In Bonn, Latvian representative Janis Peters told the newspaper BILD AM SONNTAG that a civil war "is underway" in the Soviet Union, in an interview to be published on Sunday.

The Committee for National Salvation which was established in Lithuania represents "the prototype of a future dictatorship," he said, adding that "Gorbachev's position is considerably weakened."

Tarazevich Departs for Moscow

LD1901140191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 1045 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A report has been received from the Republic of Lithuania legislature that there is unusual quiet in Lithuania. Neither the Ministry of Internal Affairs nor the State Security Department received any reports of arbitrary acts by the military, with the exception that [words indistinct] checking the documents. This was announced to journalists at the Supreme Council by the Supreme Council press representative [words indistinct].

Georgiy Tarazevich, the USSR president's representative and chairman of the national policy and international relations commission, worked very hard Friday, and in the evening left for Moscow. He will return to Vilnius on Monday [21 January].

Ninety trucks carrying soldiers who [words indistinct] arrived in Vilnius, are standing there, and it appears that they do not intend to go anywhere. By the way, some of these trucks brought (?two tanks).

Municipalities in some rayons and towns are trying to establish closer relations with the leadership of military units stationed on their territories. The Siauliai and Kaunas town and Alytus rayon municipalities should be mentioned here. This helps to avoid conflicts [words indistinct] between the servicemen and local governments.

So far 37 people are missing. The list of 13 January has become much shorter, but it is being supplemented by new names [words indistinct] For instance, yesterday three youths of the called-up age were missing. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, the chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, Vytautas Landsbergis, had a telephone conversation with the USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, whom he [words indistinct]

Iceland's Foreign Minister Meets Landsbergis

LD2001131891 Vilnius International Service in English 2230 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Iceland's foreign minister, Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, has arrived in Vilnius today where he met for talks on two separate occasions with Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Council. Mr. Hannibalsson also met with the Lithuanian prime minister, Gediminas Vagnorius [words indistinct]. In all these meetings the honorable guest confirmed Iceland's unwavering support to Lithuania [words indistinct] Mr. Hannibalsson also expressed grave concern about the escalating tension in the Baltic republics. [passage omitted]

Speaking to journalists, Iceland's foreign minister, Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson, confirmed that his state's government was seriously considering the possibility of entering into diplomatic relations with Lithuania. One of the requirements for the exchange of ambassadors between the two states is the possibility for them to fulfill their functions. This precondition cannot be guaranteed, however, Mr. Hannibalsson noted, since the leadership of the occupation forces in Lithuania was not behaving according to universally accepted international law. Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson added that the exchange of ambassadors between both countries was a question of time.

According to Iceland's foreign minister, the agreement signed by the Baltic states and Russia in Tallinn earlier this week will undoubtedly serve as a catalyst in the formation of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Iceland. Mr. Jon Baldvin Hannibalsson also stressed that the use of military force in Vilnius opened up the eyes of the Western democratic forces, simultaneously dealing a severe blow to Gorbachev's reputation in the West.

Law on 'Voluntary Territorial Guard' Reported

LD1801140691 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Vilnius January 18 TASS—Yet another law, adopted by the Lithuanian parliament on Thursday, takes effect in the republic today, in conflict with the USSR Constitution and decrees of the USSR president.

The law "On Voluntary Territorial Guard Service" states that the service will guard important state and economic facilities, help eliminate the aftermath of ecological disasters and natural calamities and, if necessary, help police guard borders and ensure security and order.

The law stipulates that the voluntary service will guard the territory in the "Event of a threat to the security of the state" and will also carry out "state assignments by a government decision". The volunteers are to be paid from the state budget.

Under the provisions of this law, the volunteer "takes an oath of loyalty to the Lithuanian Republic". The government of the republic regulates the acquisition, maintenance and use of weapons, while the Territorial Guard Department may allow one to acquire and keep personal arms when off duty.

Law Said 'Unconstitutional'

LD1901181891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1754 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius, 19 Jan (TASS)—Lithuania's Committee of National Salvation has adopted a message to the citizens of the republic which notes that the law passed yesterday by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic, "on volunteer service in the defense of the region," is in conflict with the decree of the USSR president "to ban the setting up of armed formations not envisaged by USSR legislation, and on the confiscation of arms in cases of their illegal possession". It clashes with the decision of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies and with the USSR law "on universal military service". It is unconstitutional.

The committee calls on the male population of Lithuania "not to place itself on the brink of crime". In the committee's view, the law leads to fratricidal war in the republic.

Lithuania 'Quiet'; Presidium To Meet 19 Jan

LD1901100791 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] A plenary session of the Lithuanian Supreme Council is not going to take place today. The Supreme Council Presidium will meet. Last night, according to our information, was quiet both in Vilnius and in Lithuania. It was noticed that the military were patroling in Grigiskes, Didlaukis, Baltupiai, and Tuniskes, but we do not have information about any incidents. About six o'clock military vehicles returned to the barracks.

It is reported from the office of the chairman of the Supreme Council that the foreign minister of Iceland, John Balvin Hannibalsson, is to visit Lithuania today. Legislative delegations from the Ukraine, Poland, and a group of Moscow and Leningrad council deputies are staying in Lithuania.

Situation Remains 'Tense'

LD1901224591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2105 GMT 19 Jan 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] The situation in the Lithuanian Republic remains tense. There are people on duty round the clock in the legislature building. The legislature is barricaded with concrete blocks. The guard in the legislature itself is no less careful, but journalists have free access. The television center building is still blocked with military equipment, and television workers can only do their reports via Kaunas.

A representative of the Lithuanian procuracy said that during the events 14 people were killed and 146 injured, while 37 people are missing. Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former prime minister, told a news conference that there had been a coup in Lithuania, but she saw no need to guard the legislature building, since it could lead to new casualties. But a number of legislative deputies expressed the opinion that there was still a possibility of its being stormed. The legislature has no chance to get on with its daily affairs.

The composition of the National Salvation Committee is still not known. At a conference by the committee today its membership was not announced.

Military Surveyed on Baltic-Russian Accord

LD1901110391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 0805 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Postfaktum has some reports about the actions of the Soviet military in the Baltic area. According to information received from unofficial sources, the Political Department of the Baltic border okrug has dispatched a telegram to the military units ordering them to clarify the attitude of the officers and NCO's to the signing of an agreement between the Baltic republics and the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic. The department does not recommend giving explanations if the servicemen are not familiar with the content and details of the signing of an agreement between Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, and Estonia.

An officer who did not wish to be known reported that a meeting of Baltic military okrug servicemen has decided to begin a collection of funds for the Riga special militia unit. The minimum contribution by each officer and NCO is three rubles.

Vilnius Labor Collectives Thank Soviet Troops

LD1901144991 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Report by TASS correspondent from Vilnius]

[Text] Soldiers from the local garrison have met with representatives from the city's labor collectives. The

workers are interested in the problems of the soldiers and are giving them moral and material support. This time the representatives of factories producing radio-measurement equipment, Elektro-schetchikov, the Vilnius airport, and a number of other enterprises gave the soldiers gifts—foodstuffs and necessities—and thanked the soldiers for their help in introducing public order to Vilnius.

Supreme Soviet Members Visit Vilnius 20 Jan

LD2001182591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report from Vilnius by special correspondent Vladimir Perfiliev]

[Text] Today is Sunday. A week ago today, a terrible drama took place on the square in front of the republic's legislature. Residents of Vilnius and other towns, the old and the young, and people of different professions, views, and convictions today brought flowers to the site of the tragedy.

Members of the USSR Supreme Soviet and members of the Soyuz legislative group Yuriy Blokhin, Anatoliy Chekhoyev, and Georgiy Tikhonov have been to the square today. They arrived in the Lithuanian capital today, and immediately held numerous meetings with the population, the electorate, and political figures.

Yuriy Vitaleyevich Blokhin noted in an interview that an open political battle to realize personal ambitions is taking place in the republic. It is interesting that both the native and Russian-speaking populations are simply not being taken into account. The situation is growing more heated from one day to the next.

If, until recently, the battle was being waged with social, economic, and political motives, today relations between nationalities are coming to the fore. There are facts which bear witness to this. Yesterday, Russian-language school No. 20 was subjected to acts of vandalism, and today we have just heard that Russian-language school No. 6 has been attacked. It is frightening when anger starts to be vented upon children.

It is true that it also affects adults. For example, yesterday evening, members of a central television film crew were badly beaten—my colleagues, journalists. Before beating them, the local youths took an interest in the nationality of the journalists. They beat them on an ethnic basis.

The members of the USSR Supreme Soviet—Blokhin, Tikhonov, and Chekhoyev—have promised to report to the USSR president and the leadership of the Union's Supreme Soviet about the situation in the republic. Yuriy Blokhin also intends to talk about the events in Lithuania at the Russian Supreme Soviet session which opens tomorrow.

Deputy Tikhonov Comments on Visit

LD2001200691 Moscow TASS in English 1937 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Vilnius January 20 TASS—A group of three Soviet people's deputies—Yuriy Blokhin, Georgiy Tikhonov and Anatoliy Chekhoyev, all members of the Soyuz deputy group—arrived in Vilnius today on a fact-finding mission.

The trip was prompted by the gravity of the situation in this Baltic republic. "We were not sent, we came on our own," Georgiy Tikhonov told TASS.

"We are not here to pass judgement. It is up to competent bodies to decide who is to blame for the tragic events in Vilnius," he said. But we do want to get a fuller picture.

Group members met public figures, Lithuanian Communist Party city activists and chairman of the Vilnius City Council Grumadas for discussion.

The deputies hope their mission will help prevent similar outbreaks in the future, Tikhonov said before leaving for Moscow late on Sunday.

Soviet Deputy Defense Minister on Lithuania

LD2001000191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Report on "situation in Lithuania," incorporating an interview with USSR Deputy Defense Minister V.I. Varennikov by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Vremya" program—recorded]

[Text] Now we have information about the situation in Lithuania. I want briefly to preface the report we are about to show you. From everything said on the air and in the press in recent days one conclusion can be drawn: The automatic weapon never has been and cannot be the means for instituting democracy.

It is quiet on the streets and squares of Vilnius. Public transportation and enterprises in the city are operating. There is heat to the houses and there are no cuts in water or electricity supplies. Today has been a quiet, misty one, as though nature itself had decided to soften the contrasts, quiet people, pacify passions. Eventually, there was a snowfall, the thing that, of course, brings the greatest joy for children. The peace of these wintry streets is not disturbed by tanks or armored personnel carriers, and military patrols are nowhere to be seen. Even so, there has been no lowering of the barricades at the legislature building. As before, its guard are on duty round the clock.

The republic's Supreme Council is continuing its work. A bill on family assistance and state benefits has passed its first reading. The governor of the Bank of Lithuania,

(Baldisius), told deputies that a Lithuania Defense Fund had been set up at the bank's branch in Vilnius. Residents of the repubic have finally obtained the practical possibility of stopping Soviet tanks. All they have to do is to pay the rubles they earn into the account in question.

As you know, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo adopted a statement on the tragic events in the republic, one which was not to the liking of Lithuanian deputies, who think that the statement gives a mendacious explanation of the events. They have decided to announce yet another protest.

Newspapers, both central and republican, were on sale today at Vilnius' kiosks. The paper LITVA SOVETSKAYA published an appeal from the republic's National Salvation Committee to the peoples of the Soviet Union, voicing a hope for solidarity with the laboring people of Lithuania fighting, I quote, against bourgeois nationalist totalitarianism. As before, secrecy still surrounds the membership of the committee. This is explained in terms of security considerations. All the same, this anonymous committee is active and has already published several official documents. The committee is coming in for quite a lot of attention and local caricaturists are making particular efforts. The paper RESPUBLIKA depicted it in this unseemly fashion. The newspaper describes itself as independent, but why then does it publish material oriented in one direction only, and it certainly does not spare the epithets.

For instance, it puts the label Judas on Edmundas Kaspiravicius, who was brave enough to take upon himself the job of newsreader and present broadcasts from the Vilnius Television center. Kaspiravicius is not a man to be intimidated, even though a cornucopia of threats and curses have rained down on him.

Similar threats and curses addressed to the Army have not ceased even for a moment. In recent days the radio station transmitting from the republic's legislature building has been broadcasting chilling reports that someone or other has seen military personnel on the streets of Lithuanian towns rounding up young people and that the committee is handing them over to the military commissariat. We visited one of the assembly points. [video shows line-up of five young conscripts in foyer of building]

[First draftee] You have do to your service.

[Second draftee] The same thing.

[Third draftee] The sooner you get your service done, the sooner you get home.

[Correspondent] Did anyone round you up?

[Draftees] No.

[video switches to foyer interview with officer identified by captioned as S.V. Ulyavicius, head of the republican military commissariat]

[Correspondent] How is the draft going?

[Ulyavicius] Well, up and down. But recently many of those called up have been coming of their own accord, or with their parents, to military commissariat offices, and are willingly going off to active service, as you have just been seeing.

[Correspondent] As far as nationality goes, who are they?

[Ulyavicius] They are primarily Lithuanians.

[Video switches to office interview with V.I. Varennikov, USSR deputy defense minister]

[Varennikov] The leadership of the republic is continuing to pass anti-constitutional decisions. This naturally inflames the situation. Not so long ago, literally, resolutions of various kinds were adopted, among them a presidential decree, that no formations of any kind should be set up, that those already in existence should be disarmed, and that weapons should be confiscated and handed over to Interior Ministry bodies. Despite this, the Supreme Council of Lithuania passed a decision on the creation of a volunteer army. This is an utter disgrace. Such actions are directed only at inflaming the situation, and they are fraught, fraught with consequences we are obliged to avoid.

[Correspondenta] In your view, will events in the Persian Gulf zone not influence the situation in Lithuania? There is such a view around, that the decisive actions being taken by the American troops could prompt the Soviet Army to act in a similar way in Lithuania.

[Varennikov] Pardon me, but to me that sounds very strange. The fact is that the Persian Gulf—or rather, in the Persian Gulf area, there is a war in progress. There is nothing in common between that and events going on here in our country. What is occurring here in our country are events of a different order. Everything that has been brought to bear to stabilize the situation has nothing in common with someone or other exercising pressure or oppression, and even less so indulging in killing. No! We intend, by the use of proven law enforcement methods, constitutonal methods, we intend to pacify those who are stirring things up. We intend not to permit fresh clashes. We intend to do everything possible so that the people of Lithuania, and, incidentally, the peoples of the Baltic region as a whole, might live a free and peaceful life.

Hungarian Official Reports on Situation in Vilnius

LD2001184591 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] A picture of the situation in Vilnius is to follow. This weekend a Hungarian legislative delegation held discussions in Lithuania about the two legislators setting up joint information committees. Andras Takacs talked with a member of the delegation returning home this afternoon, Istvan Szent-Ivanyi, about the situation in Vilnius.

[Begin recording] [Takacs] You arrived home from Vilnius a few hours ago. What is your impression?

[Szent-Ivanyi] Everything in Vilnius demonstrates the present situation in Vilnius. Although the Soviet military presence is not visible these days, and is only concentrated on guarding certain selected places during the day, the movement of military troops begins first after dusk. That is when identity checks begin, as well as the usual daily incidents, the maltreatment of people, the rounding up of people, and the arrests.

At the same time, the legislature building resembles a fortress. It is completely surrounded by barricades of huge concrete columns and concrete blocks, trucks with cranes, and various other things. The legislature building presents an impressive view. There is always a large crowd in front of the building, but during the night when people guarding the legislature are warming themselves by campfires, there are several hundred, several thousand of them sitting around 80 to 100 campfires. With 20 to 30 sitting around a burning campfire, it is really does present the picture of a military camp. The mood of the guards is dignified and quiet, but you can see that they are really prepared for anything.

[Takacs] Can you sense fear?

[Szent-Ivanyi] I would not say that you can not sense this, but it is not dominant. I think that the Lithuanians have passed the psychological turning point at which you are really afraid. The two volleys of firing which hit them were really too much. Perhaps it is not generally known that there were two volleys, one at the television center and one at the television tower.

Today the prevalent mood is, while nobody wants to die, in the end I think those who are standing around the legislature building would be willing to accept even death. [end recording]

Lithuanian KGB Officials Resign in Protest

LD2001144891 Vilnius International Service in English 2230 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] According to information released by the RESPUBLIKA daily, 20 officials at the Lithuanian branch of the Soviet State Security Committee have handed in their resignations. As reported earlier, eight of them did so by first openly protesting against the miliary force used against unarmed people in Vilnius. According to the LIETUVOS AIDAS daily, general Marcinkus, the boss of the Lithuanian branch of the Soviet KGB, resigned on the eve of the abortive [word indistinct] putsch.

Ex-Officer Says Communists Organized Crackdown

AU2001165991 Paris AFP in English 1623 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Sylvie Lanteaume report]

[Text] Vilnius, Soviet Union, Jan 20 (AFP) — The Soviet crackdown in Lithuania was organized by the Lithuanian Communist Party with the assent of the Kremlin, according to a former lieutenant in the Soviet Interior Ministry forces, who was sacked for opposing armed intervention.

Speaking in a heavily guarded room in the Lithuanian parliament building, former lieutenant Oleg Kryuchok also predicted that the Lithuanian Communists would attempt to obtain a declaration of a state of emergency in the next several days.

"The chief political officer in our division called a meeting of all of the general staff officers on January 9 and told us that the Lithuanian Communist Party was going to organize a demonstration that same day, and that after that the Lithuanian leadership would be replaced," said Mr. Kryuchok, 24.

He indicated that "80 per cent of the initiative came from the Lithuanian Communist Party."

Mr. Kryuchok speculated that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev "could have ordered the military to obey the orders of the local Communist Party Central Committee," which includes senior KGB, military and Interior Ministry forces officials who are automatically appointed to the body upon achieving a certain rank.

Some 30 officers were present at the January 9 meeting, which was held at the Interior Ministry forces headquarters in a former monastery in central Vilnius.

The chief political officer said that "there were two possibilities: either direct presidential rule would be instituted at the demand of the demonstrators, or else other methods would be used," according to Mr. Kryuchok.

"After that, we were ordered to participate in the demonstration," he said.

After the meeting, Mr. Kryuchok told Lithuanian radio what was about to happen, but was not taken seriously until after the military intervention had actually taken place, at which point his comments were broadcast by the radio.

The next day, he was cashiered by military authorities, but was not punished because "no one had told us the meeting was secret."

He added that "the scenario had been for the parliament to be taken by the demonstrators. The military command was very disappointed things did not turn out as planned," he said.

Mr. Kryuchok warned that "events are not over," adding that before leaving his base, he had seen military printers producing posters titled "State of Emergency."

"The articles of the law on states of emergency were specified and I had the impression that the posters were

to be put up on walls to inform the population. I think that the military will step up provocations in order to obtain a pretext for the declaration of a state of emergency by Moscow," he said.

"Up to now, Gorbachev has not condemned the military leaders, and that encourages them," Mr. Kryuchok added.

Kaunas City Leaders Meet Military Officials

LD2001135491 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 1400 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Commentary by Vidas Mazylis, deputy of the Kaunas City Council]

[Excerpt] An important event yesterday was the first official meeting between the group solving conflicts with the Soviet Union's Army units in Kaunas and representatives of the garrison.

It was attended by Colonel Sergey Sarnikov and three other officers. Kaunas city authorities were represented by Chairman of the Council (Gintaras Pugas), his deputy Zigmas Statkevicius, city Mayor Vidmantas Adomonis, and Vice Mayor Kestutis Vaskevicius.

Military representatives made remarks about the occurring provocations—telephone calls to the military and their families, and instances when intoxicated persons walk by their apartments and were offensive. Reproaches were made about some television and radio broadcasts which, in the opinion of the military, are affecting the already disturbed atmosphere. They asked that city municipality, public movements, and individual persons not organize the distribution of leaflets among the servicemen, as this may provoke clashes with armed guards. This could provoke conflicts the results of which would be sad. The military asked that photographs of military objects not be taken, that their vehicles, which are on the move at night on Kaunas streets, not be pursued. They explained that they do not intend to carry out any armed actions, and have no orders to round up youths of conscription age. But they will carry out all orders received from their leadership.

The garrison leadership promised to investigate the circumstances of the incident at the Vairas Hotel and at the driving school. We remind listeners that the Vairas Hotel and the driving school were among the first places occupied by paratroopers in Kaunas.

The Kaunas authorities explained why they have organized the protection of the most important objects, and informed the military that neither they nor the parties and movements officially registered in the city planned any repression against servicemen or their families. It was agreed that conflicts would be carefully investigated by both parties. It was stated that meetings between the deputies of the city council and servicemen and their families would be desirable. It was envisaged that contacts would be maintained between the city council and the leadership of the military garrison.

Apart from that, representatives of Kaunas municipality and Kaunas physicians visited the military hospital. Views were exchanged on medical assistance, both to civilians and to servicemen in Kaunas, and on how to avoid possible conflicts. [passage omitted]

Group Demands Other Nationalities Leave

LD2001140391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 1235 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Well, here is one unpleasant occurrence: Namely, that several young men are visiting people's residences and demanding that people of other nationalities leave Lithuania within 24 hours.

It is good that the Interior Ministry is currently interested in this—well, the people themselves understand that this constitutes an amateur performance, and perhaps even worse. I think there are, after all, individuals in Mazeikiai who would like to see a more heated atmosphere.

Military Movements, Incidents Reported 20 Jan

LD2001112691 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1010 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Now, briefly about last night's events. Military vehicles again drove through the streets of Vilnius, and shots were heard. As militia duty officer, Captain Miecislav Aspushkevich, reported that at midnight at the intersection of Baltupio, Kalvariju, and Didlaukio streets military vehicles with soldiers halted. They stopped and searched all passing cars and busses. At the time a group of 15 20-year-old young men were traveling to a discotheque. When the driver opened the door of the bus, the young men ran away and the soldiers followed them and shots were heard. It is reported that the young men succeeded in hiding in a nearby forest. There is no news of any casualties.

Captain Aspushkevich also said that on Prospekt Kosmonavta and Pocinaiciu patrols of the State Motor Vehicles Inspectorate stopped a Moskvich moving suspiciously. A Soviet army major was at the wheel and was drunk. He pulled an automatic weapon out of the car, and, along with the soldiers who were taveling with him, disarmed the Inspectorate patrol. Another patrol car of the State Motor Vehicles Inspectorate saw it and reported to the Inspectorate. After the leadership contacted the military command, it proved possible to halt the development of the incident.

Lithuanian Independence Rally Begins in Moscow

LD2001112391 Kaunas Radio Kuanas in Russian 1010 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Lithuanian Radio has just been told by Egidijus Bickauskas, permanent representative of the government of the Republic of Lithuania, that a rally of democratic forces in support of the independence of Lithuania is being held in Moscow. The rally participants condemn the use of military force in Lithuania. Some of the rally participants will go the mission of the Republic of Lithuania; Bickauskas is awaiting them. A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and also members of the USSR Government have already been to the Lithuanian mission to express their condolences, and to say that they are ashamed of what has been done in Lithuania. For understandable reasons, Bickauskas did not give the names of those who came to the mission. A group of journalists and announcers of Central Television who are refusing to conduct broadcasts, has also visited the mission with the same purpose.

'Encouraging Signs' Appear in Baltic Conflict

LD2001142991 Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Commentary by Vyacheslav Solovyev]

[Text] Reports from Lithuania speak of continued diarchy, causing internal instability. Things have soured in next-door Latvia following the news about the first dead casualties. In Estonia government opponents have decided to call a general strike. The situation in the three Baltic republics is being worsened further because of strained relations between part of the population and armed units deployed there. However, there were also some encouraging signs last week after the center sent its officials to help stabilize the situation in the Baltic republics.

A peace mission by the Federation Council in Lithuania, which was almost on the verge of civil war, had managed to arranged contacts between the Lithuanian parliament and the military officials of an Army garrison deployed in Vilnius. Relative calm set in the capital after the sides had pledged mutual commitment for maintaining law and order in Vilnius. Negotiations were also arranged between the Lithuanian parliament and Soviet Defense Ministry officials, and members of the peace mission held meetings with representatives of different political and public groups of the Republic. The mission's activity had helped create conditions for normalization, prompting a positive reaction from Lithuania and local military officials as well as the public at large. The mediation also helped to start off a cautious, albeit fruitful, dialogue between the confronting sides.

Mr. Gorbachev's and central parliament's envoy, Mr. Georgiy Tarazevich, who came to replace the mission, is expected to nudge it on further. A parliamentary team was also sent to Latvia to pursue identical goals. So it's becoming increasingly clear to the opponents of further bloodshed in the Baltic republics that dialogue and compromise, based on respect for each other's interests, honor, and dignity, is the only way for resolving differences amid heightened tensions in republics. It's also clear that a ban must be imposed on the use of force or confrontational pressure to meet anyone's political ambitions. On the other hand, the Balts must try to resolve the problems of a Russian-speaking group, and ethnic relations for that matter, within the republics in a really democratic way and on the basis of internationally recognized documents on human rights. If not, the alternative is the biggest defeat for perestroyka and for all democratically-minded forces.

Supreme Council Holds Session 21 January

LD2101113791

Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian at 0804 GMT on 21 January begins a relay from the Lithuanian Supreme Council session in Vilnius, chaired by Zenonas Juknevicius.

At 0812 GMT Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis opens the session. He introduces foreign legislators: Alain Madelin from France, and a group of Polish Sejm deputies. He asks Alain Madelin to speak.

At 0815 GMT Madelin addresses the deputies in French followed by a Lithuanian translation.

At 0821 GMT Landsbergis addresses the council on the situation in Lithuania. Landsbergis begins: "Esteemed deputies: barely one week has elapsed since the bloody act of aggression. We have mourned and buried our victims of sacrifice, our heroes. We have withstood extraordinary pressure, an extraordinary assault against Lithuania—concentrated in every aspect, both military and of a propaganda nature and incisive. We are united, we are strong and to be able to work here and elsewhere, we must also take stock of how things currently appear.

"The situation in Lithuania and at the same time, Lithuania's situation, between the East and the West—and here we see that we have been accorded, as never before, great international solidarity, because our situation is difficult and a desire exists to help us, and also because our aim and our determination have been tested once more and are universally recognized.

"International solidarity with Lithuania is expressed in very concrete forms, which we encounter every day. It consists of legislative support action, visiting legislative delegations, and individual state figures. For example yesterday and the day before yesterday, Iceland's Foreign Minister Mr. Hannibalsson visited Lithuania. It is especially vital to be aware of legislative support, namely the constant presence here of Polish legislators and visits by Czechoslovak and Hungarian legislators. There are attempts to come—which perhaps will finally be realized—by Swedish and Norwegian legislators, who were not initally granted visas. Also, among our neighbors to

the East, from Belorussia, the Ukraine and Russia—we have seen them and continue to see them in our midst.

"This legislative support, the presence of legislators here, has a (strategic?) aspect of a common struggle. Both their presence and the documents have been confirmed, let's say by the Czechoslovakian Federal Assembly, that is the Czech and Slovak joint legislature, stress the support for the rightful government, elected by the people of Lithuania. This constitutes a legislative struggle for democracy, since this aspect of our struggle has begun to be highly perceptible, or perhaps it has even been perceived in depth, this aspect of our struggle, which we have not stressed so much—perhaps we ourselves did not think so much—first of all, sensing within us, a love for our homeland and the task to defend and save Lithuania. We used to dwell less on the other aspects of this struggle. In our political and diplomatic struggle it was also very important for us not to permit confusion of the essence of this struggle—that nowhere would it be interpreted that this struggle is supposedly taking place within the Soviet Union, in its midst. It was desired to push us into this type of interpretation—that some part of the state is separating itself. Moreover, epithets of separatist and from here (stem?) [word indistinct] and certain connotations, which one seeks to attribute to our struggle, somehow." Landsbergis notes that it has become evident to the world that Lithuania's struggle and conflict go back to Stalin's time. He refers to it as a confrontation between democracy and totalitarianism.

He says: "It is difficult to imagine that this [support for Lithuania] would go unnoticed, be unheard, and would not be taken into account even for those who dared to employ force and the use of arms against unarmed people in Lithuania."

The main emphasis is on interstate assistance among the Baltic states and Russia. It is not solely Lithuania's struggle; it is closely entwined with Russia's struggle for democracy, he comments. He alludes to yesterday's demonstration in Moscow for democracy and Lithuania. He reads the text of the document adopted there with its demands for the resignation of USSR Government figures.

Landsbergis raises the question of international justice saying: "The principal question, which must be stressed, and we are doing that, is political; namely, it is a demand for national justice and if needed, for an international court of justice, concerning the killing in Vilnius during the [word indistinct] predawn hours of 13 January."

The question of who issued the order in the predawn hours of 13 January can no longer be evaded, as the Soviets have always done in the past, he says. The local instigators will have to be identified. He mentions the use of Moscow television in the assaults on Lithuania, commenting on a certain moral degradation of the system.

Landsbergis states: "Moreover, while on the subject of actions further embarked upon, against Lithuania, by those forces, sometimes coordinating, sometimes separated from one another, I have in mind the foreign army and the foreign political organization which are active in Lithuania. We see that this exists and how it is coordinated. It is coordinated by aims at terror and provocation." Landsbergis refers to Tarasevich's efforts to prevent confrontation, saying: "We should be grateful to that person." He notes Tarasevich is expected back in Vilnius today.

The Supreme Council chairman points out that attacks against innocent, defenseless people have not been signed by anyone but have been set in motion on an anonymous basis. He expresses the hope the USSR Procuracy will reveal these anonymous persons and eventually bring them to justice. He notes that the CPSU organization's foundations are dissolving in Lithuania.

Landsbergis refers to events in Latvia, noting that similar actions may continue in Lithuania. He lists acts of terror and provocation, such as arrests, dissappearances of young men, kidnappings, beatings and later, releases. He cites Soviet acts of terror against local Russians as especially heinous and dangerous. This is exemplified by all sorts of rumors. This is an example of terror propagated by the Soviet propaganda machine. Those guilty will have to answer eventually before a court of justice, he comments.

Landsbergis remarks that Soviet policy is attempting to deceive the Western powers by employing a peculiar argument: Do not assist because you will inflict harm. He labels this as absurd, noting some were deceived, and some maybe found it more convenient to believe this. He sees a connection between President Bush's agreement not to meet with Gorbachev and the immediately ensuing attack upon the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs. He lists his conditions for allowing further negotiations with the USSR.

On the situation in Latvia, Landsbergis notes that it is slated to be the second sacrifice. He says even Rubiks has dissociated himself from the attack. Events in Latvia remind us to be prepared for interstate assistance. He adds that Latvia did not request this last night, but the time may come when we will have to help one another.

He notes that a high-level delegation from the United States is expected, and he will give further details as soon as he knows more. Landsbergis concludes his speech at 0858 GMT.

At 0902 GMT deputy Sabutis proposes a recess and more debate on budget considerations, since there have been many unexpected expenses. Another deputy requests that deputy Jursenas report briefly on the Gulf war.

At 0905 GMT Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius begins to speak. He discusses the enterprise law, proposing that it be prepared by early April.

He says an administrative body needs to set up within the government, to streamline it more closely in accordance with what other states have.

Vagnorius proposes that the privatization law be discussed tomorrow, noting it can be adopted next week. He lists other laws, which need to be discussed soon, the need to implement agricultural reform, and the further development of economic reform, explaining reasons for the standstill in this area. He cites the need for monetary reform observing that Lithuania has no control over the financial system surrounding it. He points out that the USSR has greatly increased raw material prices. He warns of possible unexpected economic developments as a result of measures taken by the Soviet Union toward a market economy. State-regulated prices will have to be aligned with market prices.

At 0940 GMT Vagnorius concludes his speech. Deputies ask questions.

At 0956 GMT a Belgian legislator, whose name is indistinct, says in English followed by a Lithuanian translation that we see that in the Baltic states the Russian army is fighting against the people. He notes that perestroyka and glasnost are not working in the Baltic states, and appeals to Gorbachev to withdraw the army. On the attack in Riga, he says that the authorities disclaim all knowledge of it. He notes that this afternoon, the European Parliament will vote on a resolution on the Baltic states. He also cites support for medical and humanitarian aid to Lithuania. At 1010 GMT the Belgian official concludes amid applause.

At 1011 GMT there is a statement concerning funds being handed over to the Lithuanian Defense Fund for the construction of a cross. Amber beads and a gold ring have also been handed over for that purpose. A deputy addresses the defense contingent turning over a donation of 100 rubles from the invalids' association.

At 1020 GMT the session adjourns until 1200 GMT.

Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian at 1200 GMT resumes its relay of the Supreme Council session in Vilnius. The afternoon session is chaired by Zenonas Juknevicius.

At 1202 GMT deputy Sadreika presents donations from the Former Political Prisoners Association; he also reads comments of support and admiration for the Lithuanian Radio and Television staff. Another deputy presents donations from various constituent associations. There are several messages of encouragment and support for the defenders of the legislature, accompanied by financial donations. At 1215 GMT Deputy Kazimieras Antanavicius reports on his visit to the environmental conference in Helsinki. He notes events in Lithuania deeply affected the leaders of the countries represented, that their visions of a democratic Soviet Unuion were dashed, and that they have come to realize their strategy toward the USSR needs to be changed.

He notes the request for observer status for the Baltic states at all international organizations. He gives a detailed account of a Danish resolution concerning Lithuania, cites various appeals to European organizations to freeze relations with USSR organizations until measures are taken by Gorbachev to improve the situation, and he enumerates various legislative organizations that plan to visit Lithuania or act on its behalf in some way. He refers to Yazov's explanation of rendering heldp at the request of some committee.

At 1227 GMT a deputy reads another message with contribution to the Defense Fund. This is followed by report on the situation in the Gulf by Deputy Jursenas, who gives details of missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia. He also mentions tha antiwar demonstrations

At 1235 GMT Election Commission Chairman (?Vaclovas Patackas) reports on the commission's work. He discusses procedural questions on conducting the nationwide poll. He says he does not want to go into too much detail for obvious reasons—there will undoubtedly be all sorts of disturbances. He notes many Lithuanians working in other republics or on tour have also expressed a desire to participate in the poll. He notes all details will be published in the press.

At 1237 GMT deputies ask questions on details of preparations, such as lists of voters and commission membership. He notes the need for proceeding in an orderly way to avoid accusations of hasty and confused lack of preparation. Deputy Abisala asks why several days have not been set aside the the poll. (Patackas) explains the reasons for a one-day session.

Asked about invitations for foreign observers to come and observe the poll, (Patackas) explains this poll will not be legally binding at this point, as a referedum would imply.

In response to another question (Patackas) says deputies are encouraged to participate actively in the poll.

At 1255 GMT a proposal is read concerning registration extension for state enterprises and changes in enterprise law. Deputies debate the issue.

At 1300 GMT Deputy Jonas Simenas notes changes in environmental protection law should be examined as soon as possible.

In the absence of a quorum, voting on any of the draft laws is not anticipated today.

At 1306 GMT questions of academic freedom are raised concerning the existence of the Science Council of Lithuania, the duration of its membership, budget, and guidelines for use of resources. The commission has reached a majority decision to present a draft proposal for consideration by the Supreme Council.

At 1310 GMT Deputy Zenonas Juknevicius reports on the population's response toward the immovable property draft proposal. The question of grandchildren's property rights is raised. He notes this is viewed as a land reform law.

At 1320 GMT Deputy Antanavicius raises the question of compensation by the government of a state which did not cause the losses, such as a foreign state. Debate of this question has been postponed until tomorrow.

At 1325 GMT Deputy Jarasiunas reads a translation of the Brussels political commissions's statement on the sitation in Lithuania.

At 1330 GMT Deputy Sakalas reminds deputies they need to vote on a prepared document on Deputy Shved's activity in Europe. Another deputy adds that Shved is in Brussels, denigrating victims of the attack in Lithuania and distorting the actual facts of the attack. It was decided to vote on the document tomorrow.

At 1331 GMT the plenary session concludes. It is to resume at 0800 GMT tomorrow and will begin with the chairman's report on the situation in Lithuania. The relay ends.

Stresses Desire for Dialogue

LD2101143291 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 21 TASS—Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis today demanded an international trial of those responsible for the January 13 deaths in Vilnius.

Speaking in parliament, he also stressed his republic's desire to continue dialogue with the Soviet Union "if the newly-deployed army is withdrawn both from the buildings it seized and from Lithuania as a whole".

Landsbergis praised "the sincere desire of the Soviet president's envoy, Georgiy Tarazevich, to help us".

Commenting on Sunday night's developments in the capital of neighbouring Latvia, Landsbergis said it was essential "to be ready to give assistance if an attempt is made in Latvia to overthrow the lawfully-elected government."

Landsbergis Holds News Conference on Baltic Events

LD2101214691

[Editorial Report] Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian at 1738 GMT on 21 January broadcasts a 45-minute news conference given by Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis at the Lithuanian Supreme Council building in Vilnius on 21 January.

An unidentified correspondent asks in Russian if there is any connection between the Latvian National Salvation Committee and yesterday's events in Latvia.

Landsbergis answers that "events in Riga, and namely the assault on the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs last night, are more bloody crimes in the chain that was planned and is being carried out so brutally yet unsuccessfully. An uncontrolled military force has been raging in Riga for several weeks already." He goes on to say that "somebody should defend people against such armed bands—or people should be allowed to defend themselves."

About the number of armored vehicles at the occupied radio and television building, he says he cannot tell if there are more there or if tanks had left the scene. He says that little significance is given to this, and adds: "We do not need them there, and we do not want them in Lithuania at all. Whether the actions of the so-called National Salvation Committee in Riga are connected with the assault on the building of the Interior Ministry and the murder of people will be answered by Latvian organs of law and order."

A question is then asked in Russian on why the Lithuanian Supreme Council refused to hold a referendum, as requested by the USSR Supreme Council, while a nationwide opinion poll is to be carried out whose results will not be mandatory.

Landsbergis answers that "the opinion poll to be carried out in Lithuania has nothing to do with the declared referendum in the Soviet Union. The referendum is the business of the USSR, and we are not prepared to make any comment on it. The truth is that the formulation on which people are asked to express their view is a proposal to buy a pig in a poke. We want to ascertain the opinion of people here in Lithuania on the basic constitutional issue. We have had a law on referendum for a long time—even before the Soviet Union had it. However, certain conditions are needed for holding a referendum—certainly not under the conditions of a raging occupational army. We do not, therefore, see any need to discuss the issue of a referendum nor to hold it in Lithuania. The public opinion poll will, however, be useful to us."

A question in English asks if any negotiations between Landsbergis and Gorbachev's representatives are under way. Landsbergis says: "No, those are not negotiations. This is help rendered by this representative, mediation bertween us and the leaders of the occupational army, which helps to avoid greater tensions and perhaps the danger of new provocations."

A further unidentified correspondent asks if Soviet representative Tarasevich helped during the period of the last 24 hours to avoid military actions taking place in Lithuania. Landsbergis answers: "I do not know what could have happened, if it did not happen. However, I reported all news of concern to us to Mr. Tarasevich, and he in turn verified it. I think that those planning new

ventures are restricted to some extent by the presence of such a person, who is authorized by President Gorbachev."

An unidentified correspondent asks Landsbergis in English if paratroopers will attack the building of the Supreme Council. Landsbergis replies that "I am not sure of this. It is always possible. If they receive such orders, they will carry them out." Landsbergis then says that in addition to those who have been reported missing 16 young men are also missing—presumably kidnapped because they are young men of conscription age.

Landsbergis tells the news conference that "we cannot yet confirm information about new special-purpose militia detachments arriving, but there are allegations that perhaps not all of those who carried out the bloody acts, not all of them, have been removed from here. Meanwhile, other units have been moved into Lithuania—the Interior Ministry Troops that are normally moved in on the pretext of maintaining order, though there is no such need here in Lithuania. The Soviet troops try to create disorder, unhappiness, and chaos—in other words, some military units disrupt the order, then other military units are moved in to maintain it."

Information from the Lithuanian Ministry of Health is then read denying accusations by the Kremlin that the medical examination of the deceased was carried out too late.

'Referendum' Planned on Republic Independence

TASS Details Referendum Decision

LD1801191791 Moscow TASS in English 1824 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Vilnius January 18 TASS—The parliament of Lithuania has passed a resolution today calling for a referendum on the provision of a new republican constitution that "Lithuania is an independent democratic republic."

The referendum will be held by the government, self-government bodies, the independent election commission of Lithuania and election commissions in districts and cities.

The republican election commission is to decide by February 15, 1991 on the preparation and the procedure of the referendum.

Called 'Opinion Poll'

LD1901073891 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The Lithuanian Supreme Council adopted a decision to carry out an opinion poll on the attitude toward the constitution, asking: Is the Lithuanian state an independent, democratic republic? The situation in Vilnius remains tense, though shops and enterprises are opened and transportation is functioning. Rumors are being disseminated in the city on increasing activities of the military. A certain progress in relations between Moscow and Vilnius has been outlined with the arrival here of Tarazevich, chairman of the commission for nationalities policy and interethnic relations at the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He has already started working meetings with the republican leaders.

Referendum To Be Held 9 Feb

LD2101092391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0848 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius, 21 Jan—On 9 February Lithuania is to hold a referendum. This decision was made at the session of the republican election campaign [as received] yesterday evening.

As reported last week, the Lithuanian Supreme Council adopted a decision to hold a referendum of public opinion whose aim is to find out what the population thinks about the main provision of the Constitution of the Lithuanian Republic which is being prepared, that is: "The Lithuanian state is an independent democratic republic." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Saudargas Holds News Conferences

Urges European Support 18 Jan

AU1801143091 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Brussels, Jan 18 (AFP)—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas called on members of the European Parliament here Friday to join in the occupation of parliament in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. Speaking at a press conference, he said the "threat of death" was hanging over the dissident Lithuanian parliamentarians.

Mr. Saudargas said Soviet authorities were stepping up their provocations in the Baltic republics. One example was their seizure of 16 young Lithuanians to make them do military service in the Red Army.

The Lithuanian minister asked why the West was so ready "to fight for oil in the Gulf", when not so much as a single pistol had been sent to Lithuanians "who are fighting for democracy". He demanded that the United Nations send a mission of inquiry to Lithuania, and asked rhetorically why the republic was not represented in the United Nations when "a murderer" had a veto in the U.N. Security Council.

This was a reference to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Reproaches West's Inaction

LD1801212791 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT 18 Jan 91

[by TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels January 18 TASS—Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, who arrived in Brussels on Thursday, spoke today at a press conference in the European Parliament. It was organised by the European People's Party rallying groups of deputies from Christian Democratic Parties in the European Parliament, within the framework of a session of the politbureau of the Christian Democratic International, held here.

Saudargas strongly criticised Western countries for their restrained stand with regard to developments in Lithuania. According to Saudargas, the Lithuanian parliament, turned into a fortress, is beseiged by tanks and "the lives of people's deputies are in danger". "We are being sacrificed to the Soviet Union, which attacked Lithuania", he said.

The minister reproached Western countries for not recognising the Lithuanian Government and confining themselves to a warning that the assistance to the Soviet Union will be curtailed "in case of new repressions". All rushed to help Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, while the Lithuanians, waging an unequal struggle, did not receive so much as a single weapon unit, he said.

"We expect not profuse talk, but real actions in our support," he said, urging legislators from all countires to send their delegations to Vilnius.

Saudargas categorically rejected prospects of granting independence to Lithuania by means of talks within the framework of a federation or confederation.

So far as a referendum is concerned, it can be organised only on condition of the withdrawal of Soviet troops and the sending of U.N. Forces to Lithuania, he said.

Saudargas, Latvia's Vulfson Hold News Conference

Criticism of West Repeated

LD2101211191 Berlin ADN in German 1802 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Bonn (ADN)—The situation in the Baltic republics, according to Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas and chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Latvia Mavrik Vulfson gives greater cause for concern than the situation in the Gulf. At a news conference on Monday, both politicians called on the leading politicians in Western countries not to give any credence to Moscow's assurances. Saudargas, who was received earlier by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was clearly critical of the stance of Western governments and demanded that they choose whether to give more credence "to the lies of Moscow with the mentality of Stalinist generals" than to the elected representatives of the Baltic peoples. Both Baltic politicians criticized "double standards" in politics, which resulted to the occupation of Kuwait being accorded greater significance than the actions against the Baltic republics.

Vulfson demanded the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Riga and repeatedly referred to the "strategic importance" which should be ascribed to events in the Baltic. Once before, these states had been the "trigger for the Second World War," said the chairman of the Foreign Policy Commission of Latvia. If the freedom movement in the Baltics is suppressed, then there will be—even though he does not want to speak of a third world war—a "new constellation in Europe."

Saudargas said at the news conference that he is authorized to form a government in exile if there is a coup in Lithuania. He demanded the recognition of the independence of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Government by the Soviet Union and Western countries. He described the Soviet Union as an "occupied country." [passage omitted]

Baltics 'More Serious' Than Gulf

LD2101165791 Hamburg DPA in German 1630 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bonn, (DPA)—The West "talks and listens only to Moscow." Lithuania's Prime Minister Algirdas Saugardas complained at a news conference in Bonn. He stressed the Lithuanians' desire to continue to use peaceful means, although violence is being used "as in Stalin's time." The situation of the Baltic republics is "possibly more serious than the Gulf war," Saugardas stressed against the background of a video recording which showed horribly mutilated and bloody corpses.

Mavrik Vulfson, member of the Supreme Soviet and chief foreign policy advisor of the Latvian Government, warned at the news conference that there is not much time left. If Moscow does not call to account those responsible, the federal government must fulfill a moral obligation and take a stand.

Saudargas Pins Hopes on Yeltsin

AU2101212391 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 21 Jan 91 p 8

[Franz Kadell report: "In an Emergency We Have To Defend Lithuania's Parliament With Our Lives"]

[Text] Bonn—If there were no war in the Gulf, the events in the Baltic states would certainly dominate the headlines more. Algirdas Saudargas, Lithuanian minister for foreign affairs, is confident that soon more attention will again be paid to the Baltic independence aspirations. "For the crisis in Lithuania is of a long-term nature and more momentous," he said in an interview with DIE WELT. In view of the war in the Middle East, it was not yet certain yesterday whether a planned meeting with Genscher will take place.

Saudargas, a biophysicist by profession, thinks that currently the Lithuanians' most important task is to guarantee the further work of the legislature in Vilnius. "If the Soviets were to attack the legislature, there will be many casualties. We have to defend our legislature by all means—even with our lives. The Lithuanians are determined." The dissolution of the legislature in Vilnius would also be a signal for the other states of the former East Bloc. "In this case no legislature would be safe any longer." Saudargas pointed out that Soviet troops are still in East European states and on the territory of the former GDR.

In the view of the Lithuanian foreign minister, Gorbachev was never the reform politician he is thought to be in the West. The Germans especially are flinching from the decisive question of whether World War II is politically over. "Fascism was punished, but not Stalinism." It was and is Gorbachev's main objective to preserve the Soviet empire. Nobody really knows what rules are valid in the Kremlin. Judging from what we see, it seems as if two programs could be switched on: a modern Gorbachev program and the old program. In Lithuania the old program has now been switched on. Maybe both taken together are a kind of super program, that is to say that people can switch from one to the other as occasion demands."

In Saudargas' opinion, real reforms have not been carried out so far. "With perestroyka and glasnost, Gorbachev gave in to pressure from below. The West sees in Gorbachev what it wants to see in him. In reality, the result of the supposed reforms is that Gorbachev has gained more and more power. The system of the party and the KGB lost ideology as a support, but it wants to preserve the structure as a whole. The result is that Gorbachev is beginning to take over Soviet totalitarianism. Democratic reforms are absorbed. The referendum on the Union treaty is to ensure the empire's control of the territory." In order to avoid adding fuel to anything, Saudargas only wants to give a very cautious answer to the question of whether things are drifting toward a civil war. At any rate: "I do not rule this out."

The Lithuanian foreign minister sees Boris Yeltsin's recent visit to Tallinn in Estonia as an important sign of a politician who is seriously interested in real reforms. In general, he regards Yeltsin, in contrast to Gorbachev, as the real reformer and ally: "We can fight side by side with Yeltsin. Yeltsin is really popular with the people. He was isolated for some time, but meanwhile he is developing a network of his own. What he wants is a really new system. Maybe he is the man of the future who implements what Gorbachev is saying."

In Saudargas' opinion, Lithuania's independence must take the existing borders as guidelines. Gorbachev raised the question of borders some time ago when he pointed out to Lithuania that the present borders of the Soviet republic are different from the borders of the independent republic of the time between the wars. At that time, neither the Memelland nor the capital Vilnius belonged to Lithuania. However, the former independence, which was destroyed by the occupation and annexation as a consequence of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, is a major element of the legitimation of the secession from the USSR. Saudargas commented on this: "The status quo and the Helsinki resolutions are our basis."

USSR Deputy Interior Minister on Lithuanian Events

LD2101154591 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Vilnius January 21 TASS—"The crime rate in Lithuania during the mourning period in that republic did not give ground for any special concern," Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Nikolay Demidov told TASS. "However, political instability always engenders crime. A political tinge is often given in the republic to ordinary transport accidents, acts of hooliganism and thefts in kindergartens, which have lately become rather commonplace in Lithuania. All this disturbs people and the law enforcement bodies, calls for mutually acceptable decisions and compromises," Demidov said.

"There are serious reasons for the lack of proper contacts between leaders of federal and republican interior bodies," he continued. "The policy of discrimination against the Russian-speaking population and servicemen, adopted by the Lithuanian parliament last March, triggered legitimate protests by many people, including men of the Vilnius interior garrison.

"In compliance with the decision of the USSR Council of Ministers of March 28, 1990 "On Measures To Protect the Property of the Soviet Communist Party on the Territory of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic", Interior Troops were ordered to establish control over buildings and property belonging to the Soviet Communist Party.

"Local interior bodies were also charged with this duty. However, their actions recently began to contradict the federal legislation. The announced depolitisation of the militia, as well as the position of some responsible officials dragged out the search for compromises.

"The January events increased the confrontation. They created the danger of clashes between workers, dissatisfied with the policy of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, on the one hand, and police detachments, units of the Lithuania land defence department and parliament supporters—on the other. This is why strike committees were compelled to ask the USSR Interior Ministry to protect the population and prevent clashes.

"On the whole, our servicemen are discharging their duties normally and there are no accidents. They guard federal property and penal institutions. Interior bodies of the Union and the republic are seeking points of contact at all levels and ways to coordinate their efforts in order to enforce law and order".

Minister Holds News Conference on Militia

LD2101221391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 2040 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Summary from poor reception] Marijonas Misiukonis, minister of interior affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, gave a news conference today. He began by citing data on crime rate in the republic this year and last year, mentioning some specific cases of organized crime which have been solved. Misiukonis goes on to say that it is a very difficult time for Lithuanian militia forces:

"During this difficult period our militia did not lose their composure and carried out it functions," he said. He also said that "full functioning and maintenance of public order, and I also can say, to some extent the safety of people was insured by the militia and the Interior Ministry staff during these hard times. Tried and true weapons, such as misinformation, attempting to set people of different nationalities working within the organs of militia against each other were thrown against the Lithuanian militia. There was an attempt to shake the militia so that they would run away into separate nationality shelters."

Misiukonis said: "Constant contact was established with the military leadership, the leadership of the city military garrison." The minister said that contacts with the leadership of the USSR Interior Ministry were maintained through the deputy minister who is currently in Vilnius, as well as with the commanders of the USSR Interior Ministry Troops.

Misiukonis said that 10 officers had been injured at the television tower; some were injured by firing guns.

M. Misiukonis also expressed his point of view on the events in Latvia. He denied allegations that a Russian school was attacked on nationality grounds, saying that if a car was stolen in the street and it happened to belong to someone of Russian nationality the political card would be played.

Misiukonis said that on more than one occasion the Lithuanian Interior Ministry demanded that the military authorities should provide a legal document on the basis of which the curfew is currently imposed. "However," said Misiukonis, "such a documents has not been presented to us. According to our understanding, they are imposing a willful control at some places and in the streets of the City of Vilnius."

Salvation Committee Calls for Dialogue

LD2101192891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1730 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Vilnius, 21 Jan (TASS)—The National Salvation Committee of Lithuania has spoken, in a statement distributed here today, of the "purposefulness" of starting a dialogue between representatives of the Congress of Democratic Forces of Lithuania and of the republic's Supreme Council, with a representative of the USSR president mediating. To this end, the document says, the committee has asked the Congress of Democratic Forces of Lithuania to form a delegation and empower it to conduct talks.

Lithuanian CP Supports Salvation Committee

LD2101155391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Serafim Bykhun]

[Text] Vilnius, 21 Jan (TASS)—The Bureau of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee has issued a statement on the January events in Vilnius. Among other things it says:

"The Bureau of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee considers that the development of events in the republic is bound to have a tragic outcome, because the separatist political forces who have come to power in Lithuania have turned a deaf ear to the numerous appeals by the Lithuanian Communist Party for a good-natured dialogue, accord, and for the political pluralism inherent in truly democratic states. Unfortunately, the leadership of Lithuania has not drawn the appropriate conclusions from this tragic incident. Over Kaunas radio and television stations and through the newspapers and its network of supporters in the towns and districts of the republic it has launched a slanderous campaign against the Lithuanian Communist Party and is calling for persecution and reprisals against the Communists and anybody who advocates that the Soviet Union should be an integrated state and that the Soviet Constitution should be reinstated in Lithuania. Pyschological terror against dissidents, especially Communists and the Russian-speaking population, has already begun. Human rights are being flagrantly violated."

The Lithuanian Communist Party continues to support a political situation of pressing social problems, the statement stresses. It bases its activities on the principles of humanism, democracy, social justice, and internationalism.

The Bureau of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee supports all the positive aspects of the activities of the Committee for the National Salvation of Lithuania as regards the implementation of the decision of the Third Congress of USSR People's Deputies on the Lithuanian question, and the implementation of the proposals set out in the appeal of the USSR president to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

The leadership body of the Lithuanian Communist Party calls on all political forces, government circles, all public organizations, and all inhabitants of Lithuania, regardless of their nationality, social origin, party affiliation, or beliefs, to accept reconciliation and accord.

Kaliningrad Transfer to Lithuania Denied

LD2101141491 Moscow TASS in English 1318 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Rumours about a possible transfer of Kaliningrad region to Lithuania, which was allegedly spoken of in Vilnius during the discussion of a treaty between this Baltic republic and the Russian Federation have been denied by Yuriy Semenov, chairman of the regional council and head of the Soviet Communist Party regional committee.

"It is my firm conviction that this is yet another canard launched to heat up the situation in the region and drive a wedge between Russia and Lithuania, between Russia and the Center," Semenov told TASS. "Neither the Lithuanian nor Russian sides raised this question during the discussion of the treaty," he added.

"In order to understand what happened in actual fact, it is necessary to look back upon August last year when we got acquainted with the original draft of a treaty between Russia and Lithuania," Semenov said.

"The draft treaty totally disregarded the interests of the Kaliningrad region which has longstanding ties with its neighbours. Suffice it to say that we receive the bulk of the amount of gas, petroleum products, electric power and building materials from them. Any setbacks put us in a very difficult position.

"Therefore we submitted proposals on that score and demanded that our experts and a regional council delegation participate in drawing up the document and be present when it would be signed.

"This is why we were invited to Vilnius. But the familiarisation with the Lithuanian and Russian drafts of the treaty disappointed us: they did not even mention the Kaliningrad region. We expressed our attitude to that and our disagreement with some legal provisions of the document.

"The Russian delegation supported our stand and the two sides agreed to continue to work on the draft treaty. I am confident that a special article concerning Kaliningrad region is sure to appear in the final wording of the draft treaty," Semenov said.

Lithuanian Television To Broadcast From Siauliai

LD1901092191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 0832 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Today, at 1110 and 1455 [0910 and 1255 GMT], the residents of Lithuania will see the first broadcast of Siauliai television on the republican television channel. Siauliai, like Kaunas, Panavezys, and Klaipeda, has decided to prove that to occupy Vilnius radio and television and the television tower does not mean suppressing Lithuanian television and compelling journalists to be silent.

CSCE Committee Calls for Stabilization

LD1801181691 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—"Energetic efforts aimed to stabilise the situation in Lithuania should continue," reads a statement by the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, distributed here today.

The committee called on the Soviet president, the Soviet parliament, the USSR cabinet and the Lithuanian authorities to "speed up effective talks and eliminate further use of force and propaganda stirring up people against each other."

The statement reads that a dialogue between opposing forces and due account of the interests of all people in the republic are needed to reach a just solution of the situation in Lithuania.

It is necessary to "do away with the discrimination toward the non-indigenous population and persecution for one's convictions or for belonging to one or another party," the statement reads.

Expressing condolences to relatives of people killed on January 13, the committee noted that it hoped that "the deaths will not lead to further aggravation of the situation," but will compel all participants of events in Lithuania to advocate "common sense, love of fellowmen and mutual respect."

Western, Soviet Media Coverage Viewed

LD1901211191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Commentary by Vitaliy Ilyashenko, political observer of the USSR State Committee for Radio and Television Broadcasting; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The explosions of bombs and missiles in the Persian Gulf have not drowned out the shots that rang out in Vilnius. The situation in Lithuania and in the other Baltic republics is, as before, at the focus of attention of statesmen and politicians, and of course, the Western press. And not at all because certain Lithuanian leaders, even before the war against Iraq began, were urging the West to switch attention from the Persian Gulf to the situation in the Baltic region. Not at all for this reason. But because the fateful shots last Sunday [13 January] in Vilnius have given rise to deep concern abroad for the destiny of perestroyka and economic reforms and democracy in our country. Both politicians and the Western press are asking themselves the question: The blood spilt in Lithuania—was it a tragic accident, the result of tension, or is it a turn to the right, to dictatorship?

The reply to this question in the West is far from straightforward. One must distinguish here the official point of view of governments, and of course, comments by politicians and the press. Official circles in Washington, Bonn, Paris, and other capitals in West Europe are seeking a reply in the subsequent course of events and in the explanation given by the Soviet leadership. French Foreign Minister Dumas has, for example, urged that events in Lithuania be assessed with great care. And Italian Prime Minister Andreotti has said that the West cannot demand the Soviet Union's collapse. The president of Finland, Koivisto, speaking of the latest events in Lithuania, accused the leaders of the Baltic republics of reluctance to sit down at the negotiating table with Moscow. Moreover, it is being stressed in Western capitals that relations with our country will develop only if the process of reforms and democratization is not brought to a halt.

As for Western political analysts and press, here the assessment of events in Lithuania is far from straightforward. Thus, French political analyst (Besancon), for example, says that the blood spilt in Vilnius testifies that perestroyka has failed. A number of American Sovietologists have called on President Bush to introduce economic sanctions against Moscow. Across the pages of the Western press you see the words dictatorship, bloodshed, and calls for sanctions against Moscow and the discontinuation of economic aid. But there are also sober voices. Thus, the London DAILY TELEGRAPH—which, by the way, you would not particularly suspect of sympathy for the Soviet side—writes that the hysterical reaction to what is currently going on in Lithuania is totally unnecessary.

Unfortunately, some of our democrats and independent newspapers are daring to do what even the rightwing bourgeois press does not permit itself at present. I have in mind attempts to place responsibility for the events in Lithuania on the president of the USSR. What other view can you take of the articles in the latest editions of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI, KURANTY, and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, which have launched a sharp attack on Gorbachev? And certain independent publications have openly demanded his resignation. Yes, even the Western press has not thought of that, because the West links the name of Gorbachev with hopes for the success of perestroyka and our country's progress along the road of democracy. It is not confrontation and opposition, but good sense and common efforts that we need during these critical days.

Latvia

Gobunovs Announces Creation of Defense Commission

LD1901035491 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1813 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Statement by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, at the Supreme Soviet press center on 18 January—live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening, esteemed people of Latvia. The question whether there is an extraordinary situation in Latvia is frequently heard in Latvia today.

I would like to say this: The more we keep mentioning this word, the more the impression may be created that the opponent is really coming, that the unavoidable must happen immediately.

I am not saying that everything is in order, that the most difficult time has passed.

The OMON, the units of these USSR interior troops, is an actual and dangerous force, although we are endeavoring, if not to start a dialogue, then at least a talk with them.

USSR People's Deputy Martirosyan, who has arrived from Moscow with this commission, was with them at the barracks yesterday evening. Latvian Republic Deputy (Mihails) Stepicevs spent several hours at their barracks today and replied to their questions, which were at times angry and hostile. Indeed, there are many things which are not clear. The talk ended, in fact, without results, but a talk has, nevertheless, taken place.

We must find out what is frightening them, where this hatred comes from—we must also find out whom they really obey, and why.

Because, as you know, neither Pugo nor Gorbachev attempts to take a stand for this OMON.

Now, however, I want to talk about something else. Perhaps to continue the thought about what is our actual enemy at the moment and where is the greatest threat coming from. In my opinion it is the economic crisis, which is being prepared by this All-Latvia Society's Salvation Committee, by its calls for strikes and to not submit to Latvian Republic's laws, and so on. You see, this is at the moment the main destabilizing force and factor. Therefore, I appeal to you, with clear heads and cool senses, to sit down or take the places at your work benches immediately. I appeal for normal routine work at your homes, factories, and offices to be started.

These guards of ours, the people of the moment—and this really is to be seen like that—the People's Front, must be preserved in order that in any event, if it is necessary, the button could be pressed, and this system would operate. They will all be on the spot, at their fixed places, and everyone will know what he will have to do. We must preserve these people, as the system of defense of the people—it is also necessary for the security of both the parliament and the government in the future.

You are Latvia's defenders. Therefore, the most important thing for us is not to lose the bond between us that at the moment is so strong.

A sitting of the Latvian Republic's Supreme Soviet has just taken place and a resolution has been adopted on the formation of a united state self-defense commission.

This resolution is as follows:

In connection with the tense political situation in the republic the Latvian Republic's Supreme Soviet has decided to form a united state self-defense commission composed of the following:

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Ivars Godmanis, Janis Godmanis, Janis Dinevics, Romualds Razuks, and Andrejs Inkulis.

The Supreme Soviet charged the Latvian Republic's Council of Ministers with the task of implementing the commissions' resolutions by making use of the previous self-defense structures.

The Latvian Republic's Council of Ministers was also instructed to form a state self-defense commission by 1 February.

Until normalization of the political situation the state self-defense commission must prepare and distribute daily official information on the situation in the state.

The present defense headquarters of the Latvian Republic's Supreme Soviet is subordinated to this commission.

Indeed, we must change to a different defense system, against terrorism and violence-thirsty attackers, gradually replacing motor vehicle barricades with fire proof ferroconcrete protective constructions, and in such a manner are much safer from the human standpoint.

Such protective constructions by the gates and entrances of the Supreme Soviet, the Television Studio and Tower, Riga Radio, the Telephone Exchange, and the Council of Ministers will allow for protection of these important state establishments against direct attacks by terrorists or a maddened crowd. At the same time we are certainly strengthening the number of militia guards at the entrances of these buildings in order to make this guard professional and more secure.

Taking into consideration that in the nearest future and also later, protection of public order, protection of citizens' safety is, and will be one of the most important tasks, we shall carry out an intensified entry into the ranks of the militia, and we shall also transform the activity of public order guards as an element forming the civil defense.

Our defense is not meant to repel an army attack, it is directed precisely, I underline once more, against terrorist bandits or at stopping a maddened crowd. Therefore, a gradual changeover to that system, which has been already begun, must be further developed.

We must keep, during this changeover period to that system, all the vigilance and resolve to ensure the protection of our democracy against malicious violent acts.

During these coming days all the conditions must be created in order that in the old city of Riga cafes, libraries, churches, establishments, and organizations will resume normal functioning. In a word, in order that normal social life will be restored to the old city of Riga.

Vigilance, I underline once more, must be maintained. It was also proposed in the parliament today to make use of the presence of the many foreign and USSR parliaments' delegations at the moment, in order to create an additional opportunity's guarantees in a further development of the Latvian Republic's statehood.

I would like to inform you that a delegation of USSR people's deputies has arrived here on behalf of the parliament, and has been endeavoring for two days to find out what is really happening here.

A delegation of deputies from the Soviet of the City of Moscow has arrived for a visit and has expressed friendly support.

Deputies from Sweden and from Iceland are arriving this evening. Deputies or an extensive delegation of deputies from Norway's Storting has promised to arrive tomorrow. Andrzej Stelmachowski, speaker of the Polish Senate, will arrive here 20 January.

What we would like to remind this extensive representation from foreign countries' and USSR parliaments that the problem of restoration of the Baltic states' independence must be solved in a non-violent way in Moscow. We must really start and continue talks on the restoration of our independence in Moscow. The problem of the Baltics did not arise today or yesterday: It is the result of annexation and World War Two, and it is an international problem. Therefore, an international conference must be convened at which the problem of restoration of independence of the Baltic states would be tackled.

I have had very many meetings, practically continuous meetings with foreign journalists. I am reminding them that the Western countries could now send here to Latvia international observers, commissions, taking into consideration the seriousness of the situation. We also propose promoting the formation of an information center here. I mean, formation of our information centers in foreign countries, and Western countries could open here branches of consular offices, in the Latvian Republic. Of course, we also appeal for humanitarian aid, which must be addressed directly to the Latvian Republic.

Premier Accuses Communists of 'Counter-Revolution'

AU1801174791 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By Francis Curta]

[Text] Riga, Latvia, Jan 18 (AFP)—Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis on Friday accused the leader of the local pro-Moscow Communist Party of running his own "private army" in a bid to provoke "counter-revolution" in the Baltic republic.

A special force of over 100 men—nominally under the control of the Soviet Interior Ministry—appeared instead to take their orders "from the Central Committee of the Communist Party", Mr. Godmanis told a press conference, apparently referring to the Latvian central committee.

"The people in the centre (Moscow) appear to have no control over these forces," he said, adding that he had appealed directly to Soviet Interior minister Boris Pugo to withdraw the "Black Berets" held responsible for the shooting of a 39-year-old Latvian manning a barricade on Wednesday.

Pro-Moscow Latvian Communist Party boss Alfred Rubiks was using these men as his own private army on a bid to heighten tension and overthrow the elected nationalist government, he said.

Speaking at the government building, protected from attack by a cordon of heavy trucks, hundreds of volunteers and armed police, Mr. Godmanis said the local communist party was not interested in playing the parliamentary game.

"They don't want to play the role of a parliamentary group when they find themselves in a minority."

The Communist Party has "no economic programme and no future after the next election. It will lose all its remaining power," he said, adding that this was why it was trying to start its own "counter-revolution".

"The situation is very unstable in Moscow and Rubiks may be trying to take advantage of this," he also suggested.

In Latvia, the Communist Party was now backing a shadowy National Salvation Committee which threatened to call a general strike, he also said.

The Army, the premier suggested, was less of a threat as it was more directly accountable to the Soviet Government.

"Of course you can send in the tanks, but it won't stop the push for sovereignty by the republics," he said. If the Army sent in tanks he would ask the people not to resist, he added.

The barricades of trucks set up around government buildings and the television station in the aftermath of the bloody clampdown in neighbouring Lithuania had

been a spontaneous reaction by the people, and it was difficult for the government to simply order the dismantling of the barriers.

"It's not easy to go out there and say 'thank you guys: you can go home now. If need be, we'll call for you'," Mr. Godmanis said.

Instead, the government was now seeking to replace the trucks by "anti-terrorist walls" around public buildings and beef up the regular police force, he said.

Meanwhile, in old Riga, thousands of nationalist volunteers were preparing Friday to spend their sixth night around campfires and barricades.

Leaders Protest to Gorbachev Over Special Unit

LD1801140791 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1300 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Latvian Supreme Council Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Council of Ministers Chairman Ivars Godmanis yesterday sent a telegram to USSR President Gorbachev, Prime Minister Pavlov, and Minister of Internal Affairs Pugo, in which they state that on 15 January a telegram was already dispatched to everybody which told about the brutality of the special army unit subordinated to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, enumerating the crimes committed by it.

In this telegram the Latvian Republic's leaders once more call the attention of Gorbachev, Pavlov, and Pugo to their responsibility for the actions of the unit subordinated to the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. If urgent measures are not taken in disbanding this unit, the concern for the security of Latvia's inhabitants will compel us to adopt an independent decision on the liquidation of this group of bandits, Gorbunovs and Godmanis write in the telegram.

Army Denies Plans To Topple Latvian Government

LD1801192191 Moscow TASS in English 1821 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga January 18 TASS—"The Army neither intended, nor intends to overthrow Latvia's legitimate government and parliament," Deputy Head of the Baltic Military District's Military Political Department Major General Vladimir Sarafanov told a news conference here today.

Asked about troop movements in the republic, Sarafanov said to avoid raising tension the military district command has minimised movements of military vehicles in Riga streets.

Rumours about "tank columns" and yesterday's statement by Chairman of the Latvian parliament's Defence Commission Talavs Jundzis about "readiness to resistance and attacks by tanks" were mere provocation, Sarafanov said.

Officer Denies Soldiers Refused Baltics Posting

LD1801213191 Moscow TASS in English 2116 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 19 TASS—The Soviet and foreign mass media recently reported that servicemen in the Vitebsk Paratrooper Division from the Soviet KGB Border Troops left the Soviet Communist Party and the Komsomol on a mass scale and refused to be transferred to the Baltics.

"The Western and some Soviet mass media reported also that I made an address on Latvian Radio, saying that servicemen in the division refused to carry out the order to be transferred to the Baltics," Division Commander Major-General Bocharov told TASS.

"Some sources say that such a statement was made by my deputy Colonel Soldatov. I can say with all responsibility that we have not received orders to be transferred to the Baltic republics, and there could not have been any opposition from servicemen to such redeployment," Bocharov said.

"Of course, I spoke neither on Latvian or any other radio. There is no Colonel Soldatov either in my division, or in the Soviet KGB Border Troops," he said.

"Our paratroopers are living their routine life. They are involved in regular training. Until recently, not a single soldier, sergeant or officer appealed to leave the Komsomol or the Soviet Communist Party. Naturally, there have been no casualties, about which various radio station worry so much," Bocharov said.

"False reports about paratroopers are aimed to aggravate tension in the country," Bocharov said.

Equal Rights Faction Snubs Legislature

LD1801213991 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] While the people of Latvia are going forth to protect their parliament and government, while the Supreme Soviet is working 24 hours a day, the opposition Latvian parliament Equal Rights faction announces that it considers it impossible to participate in the work of the republic's Supreme Soviet. We remind you that this faction contains 58 deputies, and the total number of deputies in the Latvian parliament is 201. In their address, published in the Soviet Latvia Communist Party newspaper, signed by Sergejs Dimans—the leader of the faction—it says the reason for this step is the barricades set up in the streets of Riga, and also the Supreme Soviet decision in this difficult situation to cooperate with the different movements in the republic, including the citizens committee. As stated in the address, this alliance means the usual parliament coup.

Turning away from further parliamentary struggles, the faction nonetheless announces in its address a call for all opposition forces [word indistinct] talks. In the announcement nothing is said about how to carry them out, or who can participate in them.

Situation in Riga Termed 'Explosive'

LD1901201691 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] A regular sitting of the Council of Ministers took place today. Members of the government examined the situation in Riga and the possibility of guarding key installations in the city. Janis Peters, permanent representative of the Latvian Republic Council of Ministers in Moscow, provided information on the situation in the center. He assessed it as explosive. The most serious thing is the difficult situation with regard to foodstuffs and the political situation.

Janis Peters noted that the contacts with the Soviet Union on various levels, with Gorbachev, Pugo, and Yazov, continue. Regarding the catastrophe in Latgal and other regions, the Ministry of Finance has proposed examining the possibility of paying an indemnity to the region of Latgal, which suffered from flooding. It was possible to give 7 million rubles in order to purchase cattle feed, the same amount to purchase seeds, and more than 7.5 million rubles to repair the roads.

The Council of Ministers decided to give 3.5 million rubles to buy shares in the Publishing House joint stock company. These propositions have been submitted for examination to the republican Supreme Soviet.

Committee Assails Yeltsin's 'Provocative' Activites

LD1901173191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The All-Latvian People's Assembly has appealed to USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev as follows:

Behind the backs of the Russian people and the other peoples of Russia, but claiming to act in their name, on 13 January in Tallinn Yeltsin signed a basically anti-people document—a declaration by the leaders of the Supreme Soviets of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, which encouraged separatism and nationalism and struck out at the consolidation of society and the strengthening of the unity of our multi-ethnic state. There is no doubt, the appeal says, that Yeltsin was one of those who initiated and inspired this shameful document. The fact that Yeltsin has hitched his wagon to the separatists and those who are suppressing democracy in the Baltic republics graphically demonstrates once again his political face, his isolation from the true interests of the people, his hypocrisy, and his political chicanery, which he masks with populist slogans in an attempt to satisfy his political ambitions by any methods, even the dirtiest ones.

Because of his fear of the people, it is certainly no coincidence that Yeltsin signs various declarations and appeals without consulting the people, without first holding meetings with representatives of various sections of the population. We, Russians and so-called Russian-speaking citizens, and persons of other nationalities living in the Soviet Baltic republics, roundly condemn and reject this false document, whose purpose is to mislead Soviet and world public opinion, to distract attention from the atmosphere of illegality and nationalist hysteria prevailing in the Baltic republics, and to drive a wedge into general efforts to stabilize the situation in the country.

We demand that Yeltsin cease his anti-people, provocative activities, which benefit extremists and separatists. We are certain that Yeltsin does not have the right to speak on behalf of the entire Russian people and other peoples of Russia. We do not need his demagogic assurances about defending the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the Soviet Baltic republics.

We appeal to the people of Russia. We are waiting for you to speak up in our defense, in the defense of our children. We support the USSR president's actions to strengthen legality and law and order in the Soviet Baltic republics and, to this end, we ask that all the necessary measures be taken, up to and including the imposition of presidential rule.

The appeal was unanimously adopted by the All-Latvian People's Assembly.

USSR Deputy Says Media Exaggerates Situation

LD1901151791 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 0907 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Remarks by USSR People's Deputy Anatoliy Alekseyevich Denisov at a news conference in Riga on 19 January on the results of a visit by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to Latvia—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] We managed to do a lot in the course of the two days. We held a lot of meetings. I would also like to report to you on what we succeeded in doing, and our impressions—if this is of interest to you, because I do not want to risk taking up your time. In the first place, on our aims and powers. Concerning powers, there are none. Our aim is—we came here—so as to inform the Supreme Soviet of the Union on the kind of situation here and in particular on the sources of possible bloodshed, the reasons for possible bloodshed, so that the Supreme Soviet and the lea lership of the Union can take some form of measures for preventing and avoiding it.

What did we succeed in doing? We separated ourselves into a few groups and met—it seems to us—with a wide strata of the population. [passage omitted] The general

impression is that things are not as bad as is now considered in Moscow. The means of mass information is partly to blame, although I should says that their reports are one-sided. It is partly the [words indistinct] one-sidedness. This is what mainly worries us. Everywhere we observe nothing other than (?tendencies). In the center on one hand, in localities on the other—I would not actually say in the centers and localities, but on the basis of political groupings [po politicheskim srezm]—all of them carry this and that kind of extremism. This is very worrying. I personally consider that this is the main reason for all the kinds of unrealism in this country. Everyone is hoping to stand for their maximum, extreme demands, and not for what in my opinion is very necessary—the sense of cooperation for a common cause.

The cause is in fact common; it is about freedom, about the independence not only of nations and people, but also of all groups [srez],—about the freedom and independence of professional, national, cultural, and whatever groups you like. This is a common cause: the cause of all the people who live in our country—and not only in our country, but all over the world. [passage omitted]

Speaking specifically, then the kind of threat that dominated when we came here—the possibility of Army interference in all these affairs—has now to a great extent been reduced. We are not getting the impression—although we still have the meeting ahead of us today with (?Kuzmenism), commander of the okrug, where we can directly (?examine) these questions—but so far the impression is such that an immediate threat of any kind of action from the side of the Army is not expected.

Much worse, and vividly acute, is the stand of the internal forces for law and order—that is, with the militia (?Yamon). Here there is no certainty that for some reason shooting will not simply breakout, from both sides, as both sides are armed [words indistinct]. This worries us. We are considering outlining this to the center, that it should tackle this problem. Two armed forces subordinate to different powers in one place is not possible. Because [words indistinct] is subordinate to the central powers, but the militia to the local, and sooner or later [word indistinct] will take place. You understand that this is an objective course of events. Under the most favorable situation, sooner or later such a conflict is possible, because any kind of conflict between the central and local interests should be understood not to be an artificial thing—this is an objective reality, not to mention unavoidable, and even a blessing for the development of the necessity generally speaking, of some kinds of contradictions. [passage omitted]

Registration of Soviet Troops, Families Ordered

LD1901092791 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0130 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Yesterday the Council of Ministers of the Latvian Republic passed a resolution on the procedure for registering the residence of USSR servicemen and the members of their families.

First, in the Latvian Republic members of the officer corps, senior warrant officers, warrant officers [naval], extended service military personnel in the USSR Armed Forces, border troops, internal troops, rail troops, and organs of the Committee for State Security on active military service in the Latvian Republic, as well as their families, are to be registered for the duration of their service in their military units, irrespective of what accommodation they actually occupy.

Second, the places of registration and the maximum number of servicemen and their families registered in each rayon and town of the republic will be determined by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian Republic, following representations from the Baltic Military District, the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, or the USSR KGB and in agreement with the appropriate bodies of self-administration.

Third, the executive committees of town, rayon, and rural soviets of people's deputies are to ensure that registration of those USSR servicemen and their families mentioned in Article One of this resolution takes place in line with the demands set down by the Council of Ministers of the Latvian Republic within ten days of receipt of application.

The resolution is signed by Godmanis, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian Republic, and Licis, minister for administrative affairs of the Latvian Republic.

Kaunas TV Expanding Broadcasts in Lithuania

LD1801134591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1151 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS special correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Kaunas (Lithuania) 18 Jan (TASS)—Compared to the electrified capital of Vilnius, the country's second most important city, Kaunas, seems calm. But one cannot fail to notice that almost every house carries tricolor national flags with mourning ribbons and that in the windows are posters with the slogan: Freedom to Lithuania! The sense of alarm rises as one approaches the center of Kaunas. On the main square girls in national dress make sure that the candles at the foot of the statue of Liberty do not go out. And literally a few steps away, blocking the approaches to a building on the street there are heavy dump trucks full of earth. This is the Kaunas television center building. It is now broadcasting to a large part of the territory of the republic. A considerable number of the workers of the Television and Radio Committee which has been occupied by the military have moved to Kaunas.

The director of the television center is Algirdas Kauspedas, leader of the once popular Antis rock group. He told journalists who had come from Moscow that the Kaunas studio "is trying to show the inhabitants of Lithuania the truth." The programs make use of video material from

Lithuania and foreign cameramen about events in the republic and carries reports of actions in its support.

The studio is on the air around the clock broadcasting mainly announcer-read texts from Kaunas radio or direct radio relays in Lithuanian, Russian, and English. They are received in Western Europe via neighboring Poland.

Replying to a question from journalists about the reasons for the occupation of the Vilnius television center by the military, Algirdas Kauspedas rejected the accusation of "naked propaganda and appeals for violence" which were reportedly being spread by Lithuanian television., It is true, he admitted, that in the direct reportage broadcast on that day from Capital Square about the Reaction of the people of Vilnius to the military's occupation of the republican Printing House "there could have been some not totally restrained expression of feelings."

In Kaunas at present the city authorities have established normal relations with the leadership of the local military garrison. However, the television center does not rule out the possibility that it might be "stormed" by the military. The defenders of the television center are unarmed and could, in the words of the director, "hold out for 10 minutes". However, yesterday Vilnius television viewers again saw on their television screens announcers speaking in Lithuania. But their faces are not familiar to the people of Vilnius. Soon, as Kauspedas reports Kaunas television center too will begin to broadcast to Vilnius. Then the inhabitants of the capital will be able to choose between two alternative programs.

Salvation Committee Declares Assumption of Power

LD1901194391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] The All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation has issued a political statement. It says:

Dear fellow countrymen, the decisive hour has arrived. The situation in the republic has become critical. The ruling circles have brought Latvia to the threshold of national catastrophe. The course being conducted by the Supreme Soviet and the government aimed at establishing a bourgeois dictatorship has put the people of Latvia on the verge of economic collapse and the curtailment of democracy. Republican television and radio, which are the mouthpieces of the Latvian People's Front, have launched a frenzied anti-Soviet, nationalistic propaganda campaign and are whipping up tension and hysteria. The Latvian People's Front faction of the Supreme Soviet has entered into an open compact with the Congress of Citizens, an alternative structure of power with a pro-fascist trend.

The true reasons for all this, the statement says, have their roots in the trampling of the USSR Constitution and the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic Constitution, and of international human rights norms. This cannot be tolerated any longer.

"In the situation which has arisen, in response to the demand of the working people, the All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation takes upon itself responsibility for the further fate of Soviet Latvia and announces the transfer into its hands of all state power for the period of the stabilisation of the situation, the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet, and of the government," the statement says.

The All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation advocates a sovereign, law-based Latvia within the body of a renewed USSR. A decision on the withdrawal of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic from the USSR can only pass into law after a referendum in which all the people take part. We advocate the socialist road of national revival and renewal of statehood, based on internationally recognized principles and values common to all mankind, the affirmation of the equal and inalienable rights of all citizens, based on the Universal Declaration of Hunman Rights. We advocate a better standard of living for all citizens and the safeguarding of their social welfare.

The All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation has declared invalid the declaration of 4 May 1990 and all the legislative and legally binding acts of the Supreme Soviet of Latvia and its government adopted in violation of the Constitutions of the USSR and the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic and the decisions of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, decisions and legislative acts of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and decrees of the USSR president.

It has instructed the presidium of the committee to form the personnel of the government and to present it for confirmation by the All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation.

The committee has announced the abolition of departments and other state bodies set up contrary to the laws of the USSR and the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic. It has instructed the newly created government of Latvia on increasing the prices on foodstuffs and services until the elaboration of a mechanism for indexing the current incomes of the population and the necessary compensation for the material losses arising from the raising of retail prices. The All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation is prepared to cooperate with all sociopolitical forces which favor the socialist road of social development. Right now everyone has to choose how life is to go on, what ideals to profess. True perestroyka requires the defense of the socialist choice for the people's future and the republic's prosperity.

The committee stated that Soviet Latvia should remain in a renewed USSR. The political statement of the All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation has received the unanimous support of the All-Latvian People's Assembly.

Gorbunovs Denounces Statement

LD2001133191 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Galina Kuchina, Valeriy Zaitsev]

[Text] Riga January 20 TASS—The political statement of the All-Latvia Social Salvation Committee, which was circulated through TASS channels on Saturday, gave rise to immediate reaction in the republic. The committee proclaimed the transfer of all state power into its hands.

Latvian Parliament President Anatolijs Gorbunovs on Saturday made a statement emphasising that the parliament and government of the republic worked normally and that the circulation of such documents "is an evidence of disinforming the official news service of the USSR".

"The Supreme Soviet believes that the committee's political statement is aimed at destabilising the situation, violates current constitutional norms in Latvia and has the elements of an offence against the state. The Supreme Soviet instructed the procurator-general to consider the question of instituting criminal proceedings," Gorbunovs stated.

Ilmas Bisers, first deputy prime minister of the republic, confirmed that the govenment continued to work at a usual pace. The circulation of the committee's statement belatedly, after the passage of several days, does not promote the current process of relaxation of tension in the republic.

The opinion of USSR people's deputies who are now in Latvia is as follows: "The state of affairs is not so alarming as it seems from Moscow....".

Albert Kauls, USSR people's deputy and chairman of the Adazi Agrofirm, in a television appearance late Saturday night, announced that he decided to withdraw from the Soviet Communist Party and step down from the post of the co-chairman of the All-Latvia Social Salvation Committee. He explained his decision by saying that his name "was used for unseemly affairs".

'Coup' Rumors Denied

LD2001083191 Berlin ADN in German 0733 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—The situation in Riga is calm, and there have been no changes, Latvia's permanent mission told ADN's Moscow Bureau this morning. The mission was refering to rumors of the previous day that there had been a coup in Latvia. It was alleged that "comrades from the Committee for National Salvation" had taken power in Latvia.

A Cologne-based radio station even broadcast this report, quoting the state news agency, TASS. However, according to Latvian television, no changes occurred in Riga's "corridors of power." At least, the citizens of Latvia noticed nothing.

Equal Rights Faction Protests

PM2001181691 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Jan 91 p 2

[Report by A. Timkov under general heading "Latvia: Who Is in Power?"]

[Text] The All-Latvia Public Salvation Committee has proclaimed that it has taken control of all state power for the period of stabilization of the situation and that the republic Supreme Soviet and government are dissolved. The committee's presidium has been instructed to form a government cabinet and submit it for approval by the All-Latvia Public Salvation Committee. The abolition of departments and other state bodies set up in contravention of USSR and Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] laws has been announced.

A policy statement by the All-Latvia Public Salvation Committee states that it advocates a sovereign rule-of-law l via within the USSR. The republic will follow a socialist path of national rebirth. It advocates equal rights for all citizens as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and improved living standards for the population.

The republic Supreme Soviet (excluding the "Equal Rights" faction) and Council of Ministers have issued a resolute protest. They have sent statements to the USSR president and USSR Supreme Soviet demanding that the overthrow of the parliament legitimately elected by the people and of the government formed by it not be allowed. Following an appeal made on radio and television, telegrams containing similar demands are being sent by citizens of the republic.

Who is in power now? This is difficult to answer as yet. Just as it is impossible to say by what methods they intend to remove the present government. But it is certainly possible to say that no substantial changes have taken place in the republic's life. Despite the barricades—and there are a lot of people and equipment in the center of the capital—the appearance of tranquillity remains. This is apparently due in part to the concessions made by the republic Supreme Soviet and government, and also to the fact that people are tired of political tension. In particular, in the absence of the "Equal Rights" faction, parliamentarians repealed a resolution discriminating against servicemen and their families, and the organs of power paid the republic's population compensation for increased food prices, on an urgent basis. And tax is not being deducted from it. Cafeteria prices have not trebled, but only doubled. The increase in fares and apartment rents has been frozen. Whether these measures will suffice to normalize the situation, only time will tell.

Collective Urges Committee Recognition

PM2001190091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Labor Collective's Decision"]

[Text] Riga, 20 Jan—A meeting of the Riga Electric Lamps Plant collective has sent a telegram to USSR President M.S. Gorbachev and O.G. Anfimov, USSR minister of the electrical equipment industry and instrument-making. It says:

"1. The authority of the All-Latvia Public Salvation Committee is recognized as the sole power in the republic that defends the interests of all population strata regardless of nationality.

"2. The resignation of the government and the dissolution of the parliament of the Latvian Republic, as being antipopular, is demanded.

"3. It is demanded that USSR President Comrade M.S. Gorbachev and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium ensure the fulfillment of the laws and Constitution of the USSR as regards the protection of human rights in the Baltic republics.

"4. The Riga Electric Lamps Plant collective unanimously condemns the separatist activity of B.N. Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, which is helping to whip up the explosive situation in the Baltic republics.

"5. The USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry and Instrument Making and the All-Latvia Public Salvation Committee are requested to revoke Resolutions Nos. 11 and 12 of the Latvian Republic Council of Ministers of 12 January 1991 on the republic's appropriation of state enterprises of union significance.

"6. The plant administration is instructed not to fulfill Resolutions Nos. 11 and 12 of the Latvian Republic Council of Ministers, and the plant leadership is instructed to fulfill the duties vested in it.

"7. We appeal to all labor collectives of the USSR to support our actions to safeguard human rights in the Baltic region.

"[Signed] Yu.N. Matusevich, general director of the 'Svetotekhnika' Production Association, and S.D. Roshanets, chairman of the strike committee, on the instructions of the meeting."

USSR Troops Enter Riga Interior Ministry 20 Jan

LD2001213991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2125 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 21 Jan—An exchange of fire began at 2100 on Sunday at the buildings of the Latvian Republican Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Procurator's Office. According to Latvian television, fighters of a Special Purpose Militia Unit of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs (OMON) attempted to seize the ministry building. Prime Minister Ivar Godmanis announced in a special television news bulletin that OMON fighters had managed to consolidate their hold on two stories of the ministry building.

According to witnesses, people have been injured.

Two Injured; Firing Continues

AU2001211191 Paris AFP in English 2058 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Moscow, Jan 20 (AFP) — Two people were wounded Sunday [20 January] when "Black Beret" commandos attacked the Latvian Interior Ministry in the capital Riga, a spokesman for the parliamentary press office said on the telephone.

Members of the Soviet special force had attacked the ministry "where our men are dug in," said Karlis Freiberg, adding: "there were two injured but I don't know from which side."

He said automatic weapons fire reported earlier Sunday in Riga was continuing.

According to latest information, about a dozen "Black Berets" were heading towards the parliament, which he said was guarded by armed Latvian militiamen, he said.

An aide to President Anatolijs Gorbunovs told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE earlier there had been "sustained firing," some of it "in bursts."

Shooting was heard near the Interior Ministry, the cabinet office and the parliament, Leonard Tutan said. [passage omitted]

Gunfire Near Legislature

AU2001204191 Paris AFP in English 2032 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 20 (AFP) — Automatic weapon fire was heard in Riga on Sunday close to buildings housing Latvian authorities, an aide to President Anatolijs Gorbunovs told AFP.

Describing it as "sustained firing" some of it "in bursts," Leonard Tutan said he did not know what was happening.

Shooting was heard near the Interior Ministry, the cabinet office and the parliament, he said.

A Radio Latvia official said a Soviet special force known as the "Black Berets" was responsible for the shooting, particularly around the Interior Ministry.

The "Black Berets" have for several days been harassing Latvian nationalists guarding barricades put up here a week ago to block access to the old town, the nationalists have said.

They were also held responsible for shooting Wednesday of the driver of a truck forming part of the barricade.

Mr. Gorbunovs Sunday announced postponement of a tour he was due to open Monday to Switzerland, France, Britain and Germany, citing the crisis in Latvia.

A statement announcing that a "Committee of Salvation" had ousted the government in Latvia was published Saturday by the official Soviet news agency TASS.

The local government had already dismissed the statement Thursday as "disinformation aimed at destabilising the situation" in the Baltic republic.

Official Witnesses Attack

LD2001235891 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 2120 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Interview with Leningrad City Soviet Deputy Aleksandr Yuriyevich Sungurov by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] I have transferred Latvian radio programing from the Supreme Soviet to invite to the microphone an eyewitness to the events outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD].

[Sungurov] Deputy from Leningrad, Leningrad Soviet Deputy Sungurov, Aleksandr Yuriyevich, head of a delegation sent to Latvia to observe and form our position. We have been on your program many times. This evening, we were to take the train at 2200, but about 40 or 50 minutes before we were to due to leave Riga we suddenly heard submachinegun fire and looked out of the window and saw tracer rounds. We immediately phoned Leningrad and reported that there was shooting in Riga. I had with me another Lensoviet deputy, Lt.Col. Trubin, Aleksandr, he even said what calibre. We ran to the parliament and saw that it was quiet, heard that there had been shooting at the MVD and went there. An ambulance had arrived there to collect the wounded. We saw two black buses which we had seen two days before in the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachments] compound and we were told that the OMON had just stormed the MVD and shooting was still going on. I stayed on a porch about 10 meters from the MVD. A little later, about 8 people came out, militiamen, with their hands up. They were the MVD guards.

Lt.Col. Skriba said that right here on the corner OMON attacked without warning, opening fire. They offered no resistance, because it was useless. An officer was wounded in the leg during the attack and someone in the street was wounded in the chest, coming under submachinegun fire. Lt.Col. Skriba said there was no one left in the building except for the OMON. The OMON had taken all the weapons there and there was no one left.

[Announcer] You mean the OMON left the building?

[Sungurov] No, the OMON were there at least 10 minutes ago when I left, guarding it. There were young people of various nationalities shouting. One of them raised his hands to the OMON and was hit by a bullet. He was taken away, gravely wounded. The people had difficulty in getting the others to leave to avoid being shot, but it seems they are leaving. I was asked to come here to report and I will go back.

[Announcer] Do you think there are other buildings at risk?

[Sungurov] I do not know, I do not think they are planning to storm other buuildings. I think the foreign minister has just flown from Latvia to Moscow to have talks about the OMON clearing out of Riga altogether. It all seems to be a huge provocation, which has already cost three wounded here alone, as well as the OMON men who themselves fell victim. It is terrible to play with people's lives.

Deputies Head for Supreme Soviet

LD2001232891

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 2255 GMT on 20 January introduces a deputy of the Latvian Supreme Council by the name of (?Terekhovs).

Speaking in Russian, the deputy says that as soon as they learned that shots had been fired in the city of Riga and that the situation was developing into a combat area, he telephoned his colleague, Deputy Makhrev, and decided that they should go to the Supreme Soviet without delay.

The deputy says: "We think that only sober-mindedness, calm, and endurance will help us during this stressful time to overcome this crisis together.

"Once again I wish you endurance and calm."

This is followed by a report in Latvian saying that people should listen to the music and wait for reports.

Godmanis Phones Yazov

LD2001221691

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 2115 GMT on 20 January broadcasts the following in Russian:

"This is Latvian Radio, Riga speaking. It is 2314 [2114 GMT]. The major television and radio companies of the world have already been informed about the events that have taken place in Riga today and the fact that OMON [Special Purpose Militia Unit of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs] personnel started shooting across from the building of the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Some people are wounded and the ground and the fourth floor of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the emergency department have been occupied.

"I will remind you of the course of events this evening. At about 2130 [1930 GMT] it was reported that several cars with OMON men were going to the center of Riga from [word indistinct]. Then there were many phone calls with information that shots were heard in the center of Riga. As it turned out the OMON men started

attacking the Ministry of Internal Affairs from the courtyard of the Latvian branch of the USSR Procurator's Office. Tracer bullets were used. The employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were defending themselves. The shooting lasted for about 30 minutes.

"There is information about those who have been wounded. They are a Finnish journalist, a cameraman of Vzglyad program, and Andris Platvinsh, our Latvian cameraman. Ivars Godmanis has contacted Yazov at the USSR Ministry of Defense by phone, and Yazov said that he know nothing about those events. Information is available that negotiations started between the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and OMON men. The situation has gone quiet near the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the time being. We repeat our request that nobody should be in the vicinity of this dangerous section of the city."

TASS Account of Clashes

LD2101130591 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina and Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga January 21 TASS—Shots fired on Sunday evening in downtown Riga disturbed the fragile calm that had settled on the city after a dramatic and tense week. The events developed as follows:

Skirmishes broke out at about 21:00 local time around the buildings of the Latvian Interior Ministry and the Public Prosecutor's Office.

There are now two public prosecutor's offices here: one is subordinate to the republic and the other—to the USSR Public Prosecutor's Office.

Latvian television interrupted its programmes to report, referring to the republican Interior Ministry, that elite Black Beret troops of the Soviet Interior Ministry were storming the ministry building. Television broadcast a call on militiamen in the republic's cities and rural areas to arrive in the self-defence headquarters in Riga and be fully equipped.

From this moment, television and radio broadcast their own version of events. The Council of Ministers confirmed that the assault was staged by Black Berets and that they managed to gain a foothold on the first and last floors of the ministry building.

As a result of the assault, First Deputy Interior Minister Z. Indrikov was taken hostage. Latvian Prime Minister Ivar Godmanis said that it was difficult to establish the reasons behind the attack. Television showed footage shot by local and other journalists. An operator of the Vzglyad programme was among them. He sustained a head injury.

Republican leaders conducted intensive talks and consultations with Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, Soviet Interior Minister Boris Pugo and Colonel-General Fyodor Kuzmin, commander of the troops of the Baltic Military Region.

By midnight, the shootout in the centre of the city had ended. Both sides, attacking and defensive, began talks. Several minutes later, the Sodruzhestvo radio station broadcast an urgent report: "Unidentified persons abducted the wife of an officer of the Soviet Interior Ministry elite troops on the street in downtown Riga in the latter half of the day on January 20. She was outrageously treated. Unidentified persons threatened on the telephone that this would be the lot of everyone until citizens detained on suspicion of involvement in shooting at the house of the press building were released..."

Several shots were fired at the building of the Lithuanian [as received] publishing house of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on Sunday night [20 January]. The building was guarded by soldiers of the Soviet Interior Ministry task force. Five persons were detained during the preliminary investigation conducted by the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]. Ammunition, knives and various documents were seized from them. The detained were in the building of the public prosecutor's office of the Latvian SSR.

The Sodruzhestvo radio station reported the following: "In approaching the building of the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Latvian SSR to increase its security, a detachment of the task force came under fire from unidentified persons from the side of the building of the republican Interior Ministry. Soldiers were forced to return fire and seize the Interior Ministry building..."

After lengthy talks, soldiers from the task force agreed to leave the building and return to base. Interesting, Militia Colonel N. Goncharenko, who was relieved of his duties by the present Latvian interior minister late last year, was one of the organisers of the talks with the elite troops. General Indrikov was set free by the elite troops after the completion of the talks.

Five persons, among them two militiamen, died and ten were injured during the night. Soviet Deputy Interior Minister Yuriy Kukushkin is arriving in Riga today, Latvian television reported.

The Ravnopraviye group in the Latvian parliament described the events as "a thoroughly-planned provocation aiming to destroy not only morally but also physically the militia task force". Viktor Alksnis, leader of the Soyuz group of deputies and deputy of the Latvian parliament, told TASS this morning.

Riga Radio Reports on 20-21 Jan Events

LD2101013191

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service at 2130 GMT on 20 January carries newscasts in English, German, and Latvian interspersed with music.

At 2233 GMT a repeat of a previous announcement in Russian is broadcast, followed by additional information:

"According to the latest reports, four people were killed and nine wounded as a result of the OMON [special purpose militia unit] attack on the Ministry of Internal Affairs. At midnight (Rinon Indrikolo) the deputy minister of internal affairs, answered a phone call from our correspondent and said that he had guests and he could not speak at that moment. We will wait for the news with great impatience."

The announcer says that a Riga Radio correspondent telephoned (Yanis Trubensh), deputy chairman of the Latvian State Committee, with two questions. Asked about the opinion of the Committee for State Security toward the incident at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, (Trubensh) said it was negative. Asked how the committee will react, (Trubensh) answered that they had contacted the Latvian Government and would be acting in accordance with their instructions.

The announcer then says: "We have a request to the citizens of Riga not to go near the House of Political Studies. We would also ask you not to assemble in large groups to avoid provocations. The guards should stay on their positions and be vigilant. The department of internal affairs of Riga City Executive Committee has issued an earnest request to people not to remain in the area between the streets of (street names indistinct). It has been reported from the Ministry of Education that classes in schools in the center of Riga are cancelled for tomorrow, 21 January by the order of (Gumpis Tompson), deputy minister."

At 2337 GMT, the announcer introduces (Khodakovskiy), people's deputy of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, who is in the studio. (Khodakovskiy) says: "As soon as we heard shots fired in Riga and a battle-like situation started taking shape, I contacted my friend Deputy (Makharev) and without hesitation or discussion we decided that we had to be in the Supreme Soviet. We think that only wisdom, calmness, and self-control could help all of us overcome this crisis in such strenuous time. We call on you once again to be calm and self-controlled."

At 0007 GMT on 21 January, the announcer repeats the news about the building of the Ministry of Internal Affairs being occupied by the OMON men. He warns that it is possible that people who occupy the building would try to give orders posing as the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Latvia. Therefore, he says, the employees of the Internal Affairs departments should know that they should obey orders signed by Colonel (Yakimov), (Lich), and (Kupra). Prime Minister Godmanis had a conversation with USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov and with Minister of Internal Affairs Boris Pugo. He was told that (Kukushkin), Boris Pugo's deputy, was on his way to Latvia.

At 0423 GMT, the announcer reports on the Riga situation saying: "In the latter half of the night and this morning, the situation in Riga has become more normal." He adds: "The Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Latvian Republic have already begun their work today."

At 0511 GMT, People's Deputy Linards Muntsinysh phones in to announce: "The ministry of internal affairs has issued an official statement on those who were killed and wounded in the shooting during the seizure of the ministry of internal affairs of the Repubic of Latvia by OMON units. Five people were killed."

At 0636 GMT, the announcer reports: "Radio Liberty reports that the attack by a special militia detachment on the Ministry of Internal Affairs has generated a huge reaction in the world. According to Savisaar, the Estonian premier, it is clear that Moscow has no intention of compromising. The plan of action in Latvia, according to Savisaar, was the same as in Lithuania. Savisaar wonders when it will be Estonia's turn."

He continues: "The press center of the Latvian Republic Supreme Council reports that at a plenary meeting of the Supreme Council this morning it was decided to set up special self defense detachments within the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Supreme Council calls on the people of the Republic to come to work at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and to do all they can to assist anybody who evinces such a desire. The Supreme Council of the Latvian Republic charges the Republic's Council of Ministers with urgently tackling the issue of improving the material and social status of people who work within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. A bill on the police of the Latvian republic should be presented to the Supreme Council for examination by 1 March 1991."

At 0907 GMT, it is announced that a plenary session of the Supreme Council has ended. Work will continue in commissions, as is normal on Mondays, but there should be a People's Front faction meeting at 1300 GMT.

At 1005 GMT, there is a news report in Latvian, including the education minister's order closing Riga center's schools and regulations concerning other schools, and a report from the Ziemelu rayon of Riga, where the Black Beret base is situated, that some of the Black Berets did not return to their base, but went to the Communist Party of Latvia headquarters where they were seen carrying some boxes. An announcement is then made requesting ex-servicemen to join the Interior Ministry's service.

At 1025 GMT, and announcement is made to the many people who gathered wanting to donate blood to those wounded last night, thanking them and saying that at present no more blood is needed.

At 1100 GMT, news is read in Latvian, followed by announcements, including the following Supreme Council resolution: "Early this morning, the Latvian Republic's Supreme Council at a plenary sitting adopted a resolution that states:

"The Latvian Republic's Supreme Council resolves:

"First, to form in the system of the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Interior special self-defense units.

"Second, to appeal to the Latvian Republic's inhabitants, in the first place young men who have completed active (military) service, to join in the work of the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Interior.

"Third, for the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Interior to conclude employment contracts with people who express the wish to serve with the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Interior, recommending extensive use of the opportunity to conclude these employment contracs for a fixed period, as agreed by the sides.

"Fourth, to instruct the local self-governments to tackle the permanent inhabitants' joining the work of the Interior, and in cases of need guaranteeing them preservation of their rights at the previous place of work and abode.

"Fifth, to regard as necessary that the heads of Latvian Republic enterprises, establishments, and organizations, whose workers have expressed a wish to serve in the Interior, release these workers from work without delay—or with their approval, by the procedure of transfer to the corresponding establishment of the Interior, item 5 of Article 30 of the Labor Law Code—preserving for these workers the rights to be on the register for improvement of housing conditions and also for receiving material assets at the previous place of work.

"Sixth, to instruct the Latvian Republic's Council of Ministers to operationally tackle the question of improving the material and social security of the workers of the Ministry of Interior, by submitting to the Latvian Republic's Supreme Council on issues whose solution is connected with the supplementing or altering legislative acts; by march 1991 to submit to the Latvian Republic's Supreme Council for examination a draft law on the Latvian Republic's police.

"Sixth [as heard], the resolution comes into force at the moment of its adoption."

At 1200 GMT, there is a news report in Latvian that includes a Ministry of Health report that four people died last night and one more dead person has not yet been identified.

At 1309 GMT, the news is given in Russian. It includes an announcement that there will be a railway strike in Riga on 22 January, and names of those killed in 20 January attack.

At 1609 GMT, there is a news conference from the Latvian Supreme Council in Latvian with only partially monitorable simultaneous translation into English. The conference begins with Janis Skrastins, the republic's procurator, saying that the investigation into the 20 January events at the Interior Ministry building is just beginning. The Black Berets could have only come with evil intentions. It is too early to draw firm conclusions about the attack plan. The escalations of law violations are plain to see. The main cause is that OMON is outside anyone's jurisdiction, and therefore remains unpunished. Since October 1990 several reports have been delivered about the OMON unit's crimes without result. The leadership of the units who did not disclaim responsibility have a large part of the blame. We must look to those forces which are using the units for their own goals. So far we have evidence that OMON parked at the Latvian Communist Party building. The KGB is assisting in the investigation. The USSR procurator's representative is also here. We agreed that the Latvian SSR procurator will not take part in any investigation—that is our precondition for cooperating with the USSR procuracy, he notes.

At 1615 GMT, an announcement is made that a telegram to the Latvian Supreme Council from Boris Yeltsin has just been received.

At 1620 GMT, questions are taken at news conference. Skrastins says there is no evidence that shots were fired at OMON befoe the exchange of fire. He is asked if there were talks before the shooting, and how many Black Berets were involved. There were no talks planned, he says. Indrikovs tried to persuade OMON to leave the building, he continues, and OMON gave no reason for their actions.

Asked about Vaznis's meetings in Moscow, Skrastins says he has met Pugo and Yeltsin, but the results of the talks are not known. Questions are asked about Gorbachev summoning Gorbunovs to Moscow to discuss presidential rule. Gorbunovs was invited to Moscow to discuss normalization and stabilization of the situation in Latvia, not presidential rule, he contends.

Questioned about how the Black Berets left the building, and if they were ordered by Pugo, he says: We do not know.

A question is asked about Kuzmin's demands to Gorbunovs including the takeover of weapons, and whether this is connected with the incident. Skrastins says Kuzmin did demand that Latvian Internal Affairs Ministry weapons be taken under army control. No weapons were taken from the Latvian SSR procuracy building. Weapons were there because it was a base used by OMON. OMON interprets presidential laws itself, he adds.

Asked about strengthening security at the legislature, Skrastins says there are increased security measures. There is also increased security for the radio and television buildings.

At 1636 GMT, a question is asked about OMON's contacts with the Communist Party. OMON units were located at the Communist Party's headquarters at the time of the attacks. Absolute statements cannot be made yet, but it will be a key area of the investigation.

At 1638 GMT, Skrastins is asked who is ordering the OMON units' actions. What is the relationship between the OMON unit in Riga and the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs? He is asked to give some details about OMON. Skrastins says the Latvians are investigating who is giving the orders. The OMON units were created for special assignments under the USSR Interior Ministry. Latvian OMON units were transferred to the USSR Interior Ministry. The Committee for National Salvation may be involved. We do not know exactly what happens to the weapons which the OMON units steal, Skrastins concludes.

At 1644 GMT, Viktors Skudra, minister of justice, makes a statement on the National Salvation Committee. Its adopted documents, from a legal point of view are as follows: Latvian laws passed by the Supreme Council are in force in Latvia, and the committee's statement on taking over power are illegal and anticonstitutional.

At 1652 GMT, a BBC correspondent asks about Kukushkin's visit to Latvia today. He has met Godmanis, but we do not know the outcome, Skudra says.

At 1654 GMT, a reporter from ATMODA newspaper asks if the government is trying to control OMON. The future of OMON will depend on the talks with Godmanis, Skudra replies.

At 1655 GMT, Krastins' statement is read: The Latvian KGB chief told him about his talks with Pugo. OMON wil not be allowed to carry out any more actions. Tomorrow the USSR military prosecutor is arriving in Latvia to investigate the OMON actions.

The main points of the news conference are then summarized in Russian, in response to requests from listeners. Yeltsin's and Krastins' statements are also summarized.

5 Dead, 10 Wounded in Unrest

LD2101073791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0725 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—A report by a Latvian journalist broadcast on All-Union Radio states that five people died and 10 were wounded in the nighttime exchange of fire in Riga. The wounded include a Finnish television journalist and a cameraman for the Soviet television program "Vzglyad". The report also states that the government of Latvia has informed USSR Internal Affairs Minister Boris Pugo and USSR Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov of the latest events.

3 Shooting Victims Named

LD2101185291 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1309 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Let me remind you of the names of those who died yesterday evening during the shooting at the Ministry of Internal Affairs building. They were: (Sergey Kononendkov), inspector at the central Riga police station; (Vladimir Gamonovich), senior lieutenant in the government guard; and Andris Slapins, film cameraman. The name of the fourth person who died has not yet been established. Nine people were wounded.

Wife of OMON Soldier 'Kidnapped'

LD2101012691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0045 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 21 Jan (TASS)—The details of yesterday's tragic events in Riga are emerging. Thus, after 0200 this morning, the nongovernmental radio station "Sodruzhestvo" transmitted an emergency report saying, inter alia:

"On the afternoon of 20 January, the wife of an official of the OMON [special purpose militia unit] of the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry was kidnapped by unknown persons in a street in the center of the city. She was subjected to abuse. A threat was conveyed by telephone from unknown persons, saying that this would happen to each person until the citizens detained on suspicion of complicity in shooting up the building of the press house were released."

Ammunition for firearms, edged weapons, and various documents was confiscated from them.

According to Sodruzhestvo radio station reports, the OMON detachment was fired on by unknown persons from the side of the republican Internal Affairs Ministry on its way to the building of the Procuracy of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic with the purpose of strengthening its protection. The OMON fighters had to open fire in return and seize the Internal Affairs Ministry building.

As Latvian Television reported, a telephone conversation took place between republican Premier Ivars Godmanis and the OMON commander. It was decided that the OMON detachment will leave the Internal Affairs Ministry building and return to its base.

Troops Begin Departing Ministry

LD2101021691 Riga Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Talks have begun between the Black Berets and Latvian police defending the ministry building. Shooting has stopped in the city, the Latvian prime minister, Godmanis, has informed on television. [passage omitted]

The latest news is: Part of the attackers have left the site in three armored cars, heading for their base in a suburb of Riga. An unknown amount of Black Berets has remained in buildings neighboring the Interior Ministry, in the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic Procurator's Office, and the library, thus blocking the neighboring hotel (Ridin), where at the moment marshal of the Polish

Senate Andrey Stelmachowski and his delegation is staying, as well as two observers from the United States Embassy in Leningrad [as heard].

Correspondent Notes People 'Missing'

LD2101165391 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Unidentified correspondent's report from Riga]

[Text] Everything seems, on the surface, to be calm here today, except that schools in the center of the city are not operating today until further notice. By the Ministry of Internal Affairs building, and in the nearby park, where as you know, people were killed, flowers have been laid and candles are burning. According to the latest data, five people died and 10 were injured; some people are missing.

After talks held during the night, the OMON [special purpose militia unit] forces have been removed from the buildings they were guarding in the city, including the Press House. The leaders of the Latvian trade unions and of various political movements are issuing statements condemning the bloodshed in Riga.

CPSU Publishers Attacked

LD2001141891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1349 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 20 Jan (TASS)—Today at 0100 unknown persons opened fire on the building of the CPSU Central Committee Latvian publishers, which is guarded by a unit of special-purpose militia. There are no casualties, as a TASS correspondent was informed. An investigation is under way.

Yazov, Pugo 'Unaware' of Events

LD2101040391 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Lithuanian 2330 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report on Latvian unrest; Vilnius radio broadcasting from the Supreme Soviet radio unit]

[Text] On the eve of these events, Latvian Internal Affairs Minister A. Vaznis left for Moscow, to the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry, to discuss the Black Berets' actions.

Both Pugo and Yazov declared that they were unaware of what was going on in Riga.

Thirty minutes ago, we phoned Riga again and learned that nine people have been wounded, and four are dead.

Gorbunovs Condemns Attack

LD2101082591 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 0731 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Address to the people by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council, in Riga—live]

[Text] Good morning, esteemed people of Latvia. A very alarming and tragic night has been spent. I categorically condemn those who organized, executed, and were inspired to this villainous attack on our republic's Interior Ministry.

I express deepest sympathy to the relatives of those who died.

This morning, representatives of the USSR official leadership from the interior troops and the Ministry of Internal Affairs have arrived.

We categorically demand that the OMON [special purpose militia unit] activity here in Latvia be stopped. From the USSR Procuracy representatives who have also arrived here, we demand an investigation without delay and a calling to account of those who organized, inspired, and executed this attack.

All of us today must start our working day and this work must be continued. The parliament will start its work at 1000 [0800 GMT]. [Gorbunovs repeats the message in Russian]

Meets With Deputy Interior Minister

LD2101134191 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our special correspondent Skuinch reports that Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, spoke on Latvian television today. He expressed profound condolences to the families and friends of those who died. He also announced that a first meeting has been held with Kukushkin, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, who has arrived in Riga. The Supreme Soviet and Government of Latvia, Gorbunovs said, have called for a complete stop to the actions of the special militia units in Latvia and for an investigation to begin at once into the tragic events in Riga.

'Equal Rights' Condemns Shootings

LD2101110891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1027 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Galina Kuchina and Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Excerpts] Riga, 21 Jan (TASS)—The shots heard late last night in the center of Riga have disrupted the fragile peace that had descended upon the town after the dramatic and tense week. [passage omitted]

The "Equal Rights" group of the Latvian legislature has described the tragedy that took palce in Riga on the evening of 20 January as "a thoroughly planned provocation, its purpose being not only moral but also physical annihilation of the militia special purpose squad." This is what Viktor Alksnis, leader of the 'soyuz' group of deputies in the USSR Supreme Soviet and deputy of the Latvian legislature, claimed this morning in a telephone conversation with TASS correspondents.

Black Berets To Refrain From Action

LD2101175691 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1810 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] During the Supreme Council news conference Andrejs Krastins, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia, said he had a talk with Edmunds Johansons, chairman of the Latvian Committee for State Security [KGB] who asked him to report that he had just talked with Boris Karlovich Pugo. During that conversation it was stated that the Black Berets will not undertake any more actions, and that tomorrow investigators are expected from the USSR Military Procuracy, who will investigate cases against the Black Berets. In other words, the Military Procuracy will deal with yesterday's events in Riga.

Presidential Rule May Be Announced

LD2101171191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1617 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Orlov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—Tomorrow there will be a meeting between USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Latvian leaders Anatoliy Gorbunov and Ivars Godmanis. After the meeting, the head of the Soviet state may announce the introduction of presidential rule in the republic. This was reported here today at a press conference by Anatoliy Denisov, chairman of the commission on ethics of the USSR Supreme Soviet. He headed the delegation of the country's parliament that was in Latvia 17-20 January to study the situation in that Baltic republic.

Explaining the mechanism of presidential rule, Anatoliy Denisov supposed that in his view "the use of the Army at such a time is absolutely not obligatory." Presidential rule, he explained, may be introduced at the request of the republic's Supreme Soviet itself, and presupposes the possibility of preserving all existing structures of power, but with the direct subjugation of them to the USSR president.

In the words of the leader of the delegation, the leaders of the republic themselves do not raise objections to presidential rule, however with the observance of a number of conditions. Despite a request from journalists, Anatoliy Denisov refused to name these conditions, stressing that he does "not want to get in the way of tomorrow's meeting in the Kremlin."

Naturally, such a plan is only possible if there is a return to the ground of union legislation at least until a new union treaty is signed or until the republic secedes from the union, Anatoliy Denisov reported. "The functioning laws," he said, "may be cursed, they may be changed, but it is completely senseless to introduce one's own laws in parallel."

Anatoliy Denisov blamed the first cause of the events occurring in the Latvian capital "the lack of coordination and parallel running in union and republican laws," and also the fact that the split in the republic had involved the law protecting bodies as well. "Extremist forces on both sides have done everything possible to hasten the tragedy—and it has occurred," he added.

Answering a question about the legality of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, the chairman of the ethics Commission pointed out that "if one acknowledges Latvia as an illegally occupied country then neither can one acknowledge as legal those power bodies that were elected under conditions of occupation. If we consider the Latvian Supreme Soviet a legal body then all talk of occupation needs to be left behind and attempts at redrawing history ceased."

Journalists were least satisfied with answers to questions about the legality of the so-called Committee for Public Salvation. "Until it calls for the forcible overthrow of the legal powers, it threatens no one," Anatoliy Denisov said.

Anti-Government Faction on Events

LD2101204191 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1650 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Galina Kkuchijna and Valeriy Zaytsev]

[Text] Riga, 21 January (TASS)—The parliamentary minority faction has made a statement regarding the events of recent days, when shots were fired on the streets of the Latvian capital. It stresses that it has "on more than one occasion warned of the potential danger behind the presence of illegal armed formations overseen by First Deputy Chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers Ilmar Bisers. Unfortunately, these apprehensions have been borne out."

The document goes on to set out the course of events on the night of 19-20 January: the firing on the press house, guarded by a special purpose militia detachment group, and the detaining of a minibus carrying five fighters who were discovered to have Molotov cocktails, ammunition, canisters containing nerve gas, knives, and walkie-talkies. The passengers of this minibus also had extracts from code tables, the callsigns of officials, nicknames of the most well-known political figures and a coded list of main military, administrative and industrial installations. Moreover, the statement goes on to report, buildings of the USSR Defense Ministry were fired on twice on 20 January.

The "Equal Rights" [ravnopraviye] faction claims that the "republican mass media and a number of officials are deliberately keeping quiet about these facts while distorting subsequent tragic events in a refined manner."

Alksnis Terms Events 'Provocation'

LD2101140491 Moscow TASS in English 1301 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow January 21 TASS—The Ravnopraviye (Equality) group of the Latvian parliament has described the tragedy that occurred in Riga on Sunday night as "a thoroughly planned provocation aiming to do away with special-purpose militia squad of the USSR Interior Ministry (known as OMON, for its Russian acronym) not only morally but physically as well." Viktor Alksnis, leader of the deputies' group Soyuz in the Soviet parliament and a deputy of the Latvian parliament, told TASS by telephone this morning.

The building of the Latvian procurator's office and of the republican military enlistment office were fired upon on Sunday night, the Equality group's statement points out. This provocation, the group believes, was aimed at "drawing Soviet army units into the conlfict and thereby re-enacting the Vilnius version of events".

"On Saturday night, a group of people attacked the building of the Latvian Communist Party publishing firm. During the attack, OMON men detained five of the attackers, seizing blank weapons, live cartridges, and nerve gas sprays from them," the statement says.

"After a preliminary interrogation, the group of attackers was transferred to the Latvian procurator's office which is accountable to the USSR procurator-general.

"Information is available that during questioning those detained described the structure of militant groups, mentioned sources from which they received assignments and said that a large-scale terrorist act—a Zhiguli car bomb blast—was being prepared in Riga".

The Equality group statement says that the wife of one of OMON officers phoned the OMON base on Sunday night and said that she had been sexually abused and that the abusers told her to warn OMON men that if they do not release those detained, every night the wife of one of the OMON men would be subjected to violence.

Upon receiving the message, the OMON squad reached accord with the Latvian Interior Ministry for talks at the ministry. But when the squad arrived at the ministry building, it was fired upon without warning. Firing was conducted from the ministry building and from other places.

Upon finding itself entrapped, the OMON squad decided to attack the ministry building. The assault continued for about half an hour. According to preliminary data, four people were killed and nine wounded. The shoot-out continued after the ministry was seized. On an order from USSR Interior Minister Boris Pugo, the OMON squad left the ministry building.

The Equality group statement points to the need "to draw the attention of the public of the USSR and of the whole world that from the very outset of the armed conflict Latvian television and radio set a course towards aggravating the situation by accusing OMON men of all goings-on and keeping silence about facts that preceded the conflict".

Radio and television issue constant calls to the personnel of the republican Interior Ministry and groups of militants to arrive in Riga fully equipped.

The statement also says that threats of physical violence against members of the group continuously come in to the Equality group's office.

Procurator on Causes of Assault

LD2101155591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1456 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS World Service correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Yuriy Sizov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—The Latvian procurator, Sebastyan Dauksis has confirmed in a telephone conversation with TASS correspondents that the republican law-enforcement bodies have received a statement from the wife of one of the officers of the special purpose militia units (OMON, of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs) about an attack made upon her. It emerges from a statement issued today by the Equal Rights group of deputies of the Latvian legislature that the attack on this woman and the gang-rape committed against her was one of the causes of the exchange of fire which took place yesterday in the center of Riga and the OMON seizure of the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs building. Five people were killed and 10 wounded, according to preliminary data.

According to Sebastyan Dauksis, the victim's statement is currently being carefully investigated. The procurator of the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic expressed his sympathy to the relatives of those dead and injured.

Answering a question from the TASS correspondents on the measures being taken in the republic to fulfil the USSR presidential decree on disarming and disbanding illegal military formations, the Latvian procurator said that the presidential decree is not being observed in the republic, and "in effect, arming rather than disarming is what is taking place."

At present, parallel structures of procuratorial supervision are operating in the republic. Dauksis represents the USSR Procuracy in the republic.

Procuracy on Baltics, Caucasus

LD2101193691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1822 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—We are transmitting a statement of the USSR Procuracy, published here today:

"Events of late have been taking an increasingly dramatic character and are evoking deep anxiety. In the Baltic republics and Transcaucasus, the blood of completely innocent people is being spilled. The process of democratic changes in society has been jeopardized.

"At the root of the conflicts and open clashes lie the flagrant violations of the USSR Constitution, disregard of the legal foundations of society, the political forces' unlawful methods of fighting.

"One cannot help seeing that in some republics, despite the decisions of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and of the USSR Supreme Soviet, legislative acts continue to be adopted that infringe the rights of citizens and whole groups of the population, and contravene the standards of international law recognized throughout the civilized world. Armed formations not envisaged by USSR legislation are being set up. Weapons are frequently found in the hands of irresponsible people. It is these actions that lead to the aggravation of interethnic relations. Also impermissible are the attempts by individual organizations to use subunits of the armed forces in their own interests.

"In connection with this, the USSR Procuracy considers it necessary to appeal to the republican bodies of authority to suspend the effect of all legislative acts that contradict the USSR Constitution and that infringe human rights and to dissolve illegal armed formations immediately.

"The USSR Procuracy states that the most resolute measures will be adopted to curtail the activities of any associations and citizens, including political parties, public organizations, and mass movements calling for the violent overthrow of the state and social system, for the incitement of ethnic or racial hostility, or for the integrity of the territory of the USSR and of republics and autonomous formations fixed by the USSR Constitution. [sentence as received].

"Any interethnic conflicts or questions of change in the state structure must be resolved strictly on a basis of law.

"The situation requires of the mass news media the maximum objective and well-considered coverage of the processes taking place. Abuse of the freedom of speech and the distribution of reports that do not correspond to reality are today more dangerous than ever.

"The USSR Procuracy is making an all-round investigation into the circumstances connected with the use of armed force and weapons that led to people being killed. It will make an assessment of their lawfulness, and in the case of violation of the law on anyone's part it will publicly raise the question of the liability of the guilty, regardless of the office or post they occupy. We are counting on cooperation in this matter on the part of all citizens, bodies of power and administration and we will accept any help in establishing the truth."

Yeltsin Sends Condolences

LD2101170991 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1615 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Telegram from Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Boris Yeltsin; place and date note given—read by announcer]

[Text] We received with alarm and pain the news of the events that occurred last night in Riga. We convey sincere condolences to the families of those killed, condemn the use of weapons against peaceful people, and require that the guilty be punished.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

Yazov, Kryuchkov Deplore Clash

PM2101183691 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by I. Andreyev, V. Rudnev, and S. Mostovshchikov under the general heading "Now—Tragedy in Riga": "From Competent Sources"]

[Text]

USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs

Unfortunately, after repeatedly calling the leaders of the USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], we have received no comment on the events in Riga as of 0200 on 21 January. Deputy Ministers B. Gromov and S. Lisauskas replied that they did not yet have accurate information. Yu. Kukushkin, USSR deputy minister of internal affairs, has urgently flown to the Latvian capital to investigate matters on the spot.

We managed to contact Yu. Kukushkin. He said that a representative commission from Moscow with the participation of representatives of the USSR MVD and the USSR Prosecutor's Office had started operating in Riga. It is too soon to say how the events of the last day and night developed and in what order. It has been established that during this period, four people were killed and 10 injured. The dead include two militia personnel, a cameraman from the Riga Film Studio, and one as yet unidentified person.

[IZVESTIYA] Have there been any theories about what happened? How do the actions taken by Special Purpose Militia Unit [OMON] personnel over the past week look in the context of what happened yesterday evening and last night?

[Kukushkin] All the theories are currently being worked out. The events that preceded last night are being investigated by representatives of the military prosecutor's office who flew in just a few hours ago as part of our group. However, we can already state that the attack on the building looks entirely senseless.

USSR Defense Ministry

The alarming reports from Riga contain no information about any participation in the events by Army subunits. Will military contingents be brought into action and will troops intervene in the course of events if they should move in an even more dramatic direction? Marshal D. Yazov, USSR defense minister, answered these questions of concern to everyone at IZVESTIYA's request.

[Yazov] The Armed Forces Command has not been and is not contemplating any Army action in Latvia. There are no plans to change troop deployments.

[IZVESTIYA] Does this mean that Army participation in what is happening in Latvia and its capital is entirely ruled out?

[Yazov] I can practically rule out the use of the Army. Provided, of course, please God, the actions aimed at discrediting the military, the threats and insults against them, and the attempts to cut off power to military garrisons do not continue. But I would stress that any decision to use the Army in Latvia would be taken in a constitutional, legal way.

[IZVESTIYA] However, Dmitriy Timofeyevich, one gets the impression from what you have said about strong-arm pressure on the military in the republic that you do not rule out a spontaneous development of events. The kind in which servicemen, fed up with being insulted, initiate combat operations themselves...

[Yazov] I am against such spontaneous actions, but the question is who shoots first.

[IZVESTIYA] Is that essentially the case in a broad political sense? If soldiers in full battle dress leave their garrison and take to the square, where the manual of garrison and guard duties no longer applies, sooner or later shots will be fired if the situation is tense. Just as happened in Vilnius only a week ago.

[Yazov] The soldiers didn't shoot first in Vilnius. And we still have to look into whose bullets and whose weapons killed and injured the people on the square and from where the shots were fired.

[IZVESTIYA] Let's get back to Riga. Haven't representatives of the Latvian "national salvation committee" made an appeal to you and the Baltic Military District military command?

[Yazov] Last night I was phoned by someone called Denevich—I may have gotten his name wrong. Incidentally, I wrote it down as I heard it. He introduced himself as a Latvian people's deputy and a member of the republic's parliament. He said: "They're shooting all around us here! Gorbunovs isn't here. I'm calling you to ask you to take measures."

[IZVESTIYA] And what did you say?

[Yazov] The same thing I'm telling you. The Army is not planning to intervene in these events... Incidentally, my deputy, Army General Varennikov, is here beside me. Would you like to speak with him? [Yazov ends]

The conversation with Gen. Varennikov was brief. Proposing that he meet with IZVESTIYA's correspondent and express his view of the events in the Baltic, Valentin Ivanovich gave the following answer to the question of whether troops would be used in Latvia:

"I do not rule out a development of events in which troops would respond to provocations and insults aimed against them. In such a situation we cannot proceed on the basis of abstract, philosophical, or formal positions."

USSR Prosecutor's Office

At our request, USSR Prosecutor General N. Trubin expressed his view of the rapidly developing events in the Baltics.

[Trubin] We don't know very much as yet. A 30-strong USSR MVD OMON detachment stormed the Latvian MVD building, where, according to their information, hostages were being held. But nobody was found there apart from republic militia personnel. After negotiations the OMON returned to their unit at 0300. Unfortunately, once again blood was shed and people killed. Our comrades have flown to Latvia to study the situation.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you assess the situation?

[Trubin] I can already state unambiguously that the use of force and weapons to resolve the conflicts in Lithuania and Latvia cannot be considered legal on whatever side that force and those weapons were used. And as long as opposition in the Baltic continues—whereby to all intents and purposes we have two militias and two prosecutor's offices—a constitutional solution to these issues cannot be guaranteed.

[IZVESTIYA] What is the union prosecutor's office doing in this respect?

[Trubin] First and foremost, we will be taking (and are already trying to take) all measures to objectively examine the situation in Lithuania and Latvia, to identify the guilty parties, and to bring them to justice. But that is for the future. Currently it is extremely important to finally select one point of departure in this most serious conflict. I am convinced that this point of departure can only be the USSR Constitution and all-Union laws, as was proposed at the Fourth Congress of USSR People's Deputies. After all, the Union of republics is a reality of our time. The leaders of the Baltic republics cannot secede from the Soviet Union just by wanting to. That, if you will forgive me, is political adventurism.

USSR KGB

V. Kryuchkov, chairman of the USSR KGB, reported in conversation with IZVESTIYA's correspondent that his department learned about the events in Latvia late at night. Local state security organs were ordered to contact the authorities immediately.

[Kryuchkov] This was done to prevent the conflict from escalating, to take measures to localize it, and to clarify the causes of what was happening. We don't have any detailed information from the republic as yet but, so far as we are aware, the OMON men have left the MVD building and are currently at their base. Prior to this, according to the information at hand, there had been a conflict between the OMON and staffers from the republic's MVD—which was perhaps the cause of what happened. This, however, is purely provisional information. The main thing is that, so far, it has proved possible to localize the situation. But it remains very tense.

[IZVESTIYA] What part have your operatives played in the conflict?

[Kryuchkov] State security organs have taken no part in it. It was only subsequently that they learned about what had happened and started clarifying details. I have been in contact with the USSR MVD. It came as a complete surprise to them too.

Minister Blames Gorbachev

LD2101185391 Berlin ADN in German 1819 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans has directly blamed President Mikhail Gorbachev for the latest use of force in the Baltic. In an interview on RIAS [Radio in the American Sector] on Monday, he said that Gorbachev is the leading figure in what happened in Latvia, together with the Communist Party, the Army, and the secret service KGB.

Jurkans urged the European Community to react strongly and stressed that the EC should immediately declare that Gorbachev will get no support, whether financial, economic, or moral, if he does not withdraw the troops.

People in Germany must grasp, the politician said, that the Second World War has not been ended by the unification of their country. The Baltic question remains open.

'Special Detachment' Blamed

PM2001153091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent O. Meshkov report from Latvia: "The Atmosphere Is Being Whipped Up Deliberately. By Whom, and Why?"]

[Text] Riga is full of rumors. It is circulating all around the city that the republic MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] is preparing operation "Storm" against the Special Purpose Militia Detachment.

"That news has reached us," Cheslav Mlynnik [name as transliterated], commander of the detachment, says. "We are prepared to rebuff this attack if it comes. There are also increasingly persistent reports that in the old part of the city, where barricades have been built, lists of our families' addresses are being distributed. We give this warning: If anyone so much as touches a hair on any of our relatives' heads, we will respond... That is not a threat, it is a warning."

Passions have been particularly heated around the detachment in recent days. The republic radio, television—which, incidentally, also used channel two of the all-Union television program—the official press, and the Latvian People's Front newspapers are depicting the members of the detachment as enemies. For instance, they reported that the special detachment's people stopped a truck on which villagers were carrying fresh milk for those who are mounting guard on the barricades day and night. Yes, they did stop the truck. But the cans turned out to be full of booze, not milk. Is it really a good idea right now to give hysterical people plenty of alcohol? There are enough incidents even without that.

The other day, for instance, an explosive device was thrown into a militia car parked outside the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee sociopoliticlal center. An investigation is under way into the case of the murder of a driver working for one of the republic's ministers. Officials, up to the very highest-level leaders, hurried the very same day (!) to announce from the TV screen: The first bloodshed in Latvia! And of course, the murder was attributed to the special detachment.

The political strike continues in the republic.

The strikers are demanding the resignation of I. Godmanis' government, early elections of a new republic Supreme Soviet, and the repeal of the resolution on a steep increase in prices.

The government, however, does not, by all appearances, intend to fulfill these demands. The formation of a new government is in progress at the same time—this is being handled by the All-Latvian Committee of Public Salvation, fulfilling a decision adopted at the All-Latvian Assembly of Representatives of Labor Collectives. Is dyarchy in the offing? By all appearances—yes.

Of course, dyarchy cannot go on for long. Clearly there are two possible outcomes—either the imposition of direct presidential rule in the republic, or the formation of a coalition government. Other options—permanent confrontation or civil war—are categorically unacceptable.

Girenko Condemns 'Anarchic Self-Will'

LD2101191391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—In connection with recent events in the Baltic region, a TASS correspondent asked Andrey Girenko, CPSU Central Committee secretary, to express his opinion on this. This is what he said:

"What happened on the night of 20-21 January in Riga gives rise to immense alarm and regret. People have again been killed. Of course, the appropriate law-enforcement bodies will be investigating everything. Only one thing is understood today, and that is that these dramatic events were the consequence of the sociopolitical tension in the Latvian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], and in the other Baltic republics, which has become extremely exacerbated. This is a result of the policy of confrontation, human rights violations, mistrust, and suspicion. For a long time now threats have been voiced in the attitudes of many citizens of the Latvian SSR. Military servicemen and members of their families, and also members of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs, are being subjected to particularly brutal attacks.

As secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, I must state with all responsibility that the CPSU condemns adventurism and anarchic self-will, diktat and the use of force from whatever source. This position is a principled one. Lawlessness may have far-reaching effects. But the main thing is that people—our Soviet people—are suffering, even if today they may have different appraisals of what is going on.

The party's program aims, and the strategy and tactics for achieving them are generally well known. They are laid out with the utmost clarity in party documents, including on the question of the renewal and preservation of the USSR. They are based on political methods and the democratic participation of all peoples in the construction of a renewed Union; the free expression of the will of the people, including by means of a referendum; and readiness for dialogue with various sociopolitical movements and parties.

The Communist Party sees the only way out of crisis in strict observance of lawfulness and law and order. Only the attainment of national and civil accord; international solidarity of peoples; and overcoming national-chauvinism and national enmity can take our society out of a state of instability toward friendship and cooperation and genuinely humane and democratic socialism.

Today, as never before, not only in the Latvian SSR, but also in other republics, we all need to show self-control, a balanced attitude, and political responsibility.

Pugo Gives 'Evasive' Answers

LD2101235391 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 2308 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] We received this report from Moscow. Yesterday there was a meeting there between Ilmars Bisers, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia and Alois Vaznis, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Latvia, with Boris Pugo, minister of internal affairs of the USSR. As was reported from the permanent mission of the Council of Ministers of Latvia in Moscow, Boris Pugo gave evasive answers in conversation about the events in Riga and the situation in Latvia as a whole in connection with the gangster actions of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment]. However, he promised that he would take care to ensure that competent representatives are sent to Riga to investigate the actions taken by OMON.

Gorbachev Invites Latvian Leadership to Moscow

AU2101150291 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 21 (AFP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has invited the Latvian nationalist leadership to come to Moscow to discuss how he might introduce direct rule in the republic, Anatoliy Donisov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet's ethics committee said Monday.

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Premier Ivars Godmanis were due to come to Moscow Tuesday, Mr. Donisov, who recently headed a commission sent to Latvia, told a press conference.

More on Invitation

AU2101144291 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 21 (AFP)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has invited the Latvian nationalist leadership to Moscow to discuss how he might introduce direct rule in the republic, Anatoliy Denisov (eds correct), the chairman of the Supreme Soviet's ethics committee said here Monday.

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs and Premier Ivars Godmanis were due to come to Moscow Tuesday, Mr. Denisov, who recently headed a commission sent to Latvia, told a press conference.

The president wanted to discuss a number of possible options, among them presidential rule, restoration of Soviet legislation or leadership changes in the Latvian republic, Mr. Denisov said.

"A majority of the people (in Latvia) favour presidential rule," Mr. Denisov also said. Imposition of presidential rule would suspend the republic's elected parliament and government.

Attending the press conference were four of the six other members of the commission sent to Latvia last week by Rafik Nishanov, chairman of the Council of Nationalities, one of the parliament's two chambers.

Mr. Denisov said that a recent move by the Latvian parliament to reverse its decision banning local authorities from providing essential services to Soviet troops in Latvia was "a step in the right direction".

Speaking of Sunday's violent clashes in Riga which left five dead and 10 wounded, Mr. Denisov said "it is hard to say who started".

Members of the committee refused to condemn the pro-Moscow "National Salvation Committee" which has said it intends to take over from the elected nationalist government.

Latvia Adopts 'Certain Defense Measures'

LD2101225691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 1609 GMT 21 Jan 91

[News conference by Latvian Procurator Janis Skrastins with Riga Radio correspondent Anta Busa, and other unidentified Latvian officials at the Latvian Supreme Council in Riga on 21 January—live]

[Excerpts] [Skrastins] Yesterday night, immediately after the tragic events, the Latvian Republic's Procuracy initiated criminal proceedings for an armed attack on the Latvian Republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs. The investigation is at an initial stage, therefore it was premature to draw categorical unequivocal conclusions. One thing is clear: that the special purpose militia unit yesterday had nothing at all to do at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and they came there only with an aggressive purpose. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent in English] A question from CORRIERE DELLA SERA. Can you confirm or deny the rumors about the calling of Mr. Gorbunov to Moscow by President Gorbachev to discuss the introduction of the presidential rule?

[Anta Busa] It is possible that at President Gorbachev's invitation Anatolijs Gorbunovs will go to Moscow, but not at all to discuss this question on the introduction of presidential rule, but to talk about regulating the political situation here in Latvia. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent in English] Question from Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA. After last night's attack, are you strengthening the security, the defense of the parliament, or the television station of Latvia?

[Unidentified speaker] Yes, I must say that after yesterday's sad events we have indeed adopted certain defense measures.

[Second unidentified speaker] I would like to add here: What concerns the defense of the television, and of the radio, then the government has in practice carried out undertakings already throughout last week to protect these objects. And, as you see, this is not only with the help of live forces, but also with the help of mechanical objects. [passage omitted]

Rubiks Confirms Salvation Committee Membership

LD2101233291 Riga Domestic Service in Latvia 2140 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer, in English] Latvian Communist Party leader Alfreds Rubiks has confirmed he is a member of the All-Latvian Salvation Committee at a news conference today in the Latvian capital, Riga, but refused to name anyone else from this pro-Moscow shadow government. The Communist Party of Latvia actively supports the idea of imposition of direct presidential rule in this republic, he said. It was denied during the news conference that the Soviet Interior Ministry special commando troops have had sums additional to their salaries paid by the Latvian Communist Party. The data of the Procurator's Office of the Republic of Latvia showed that Black Beret unit, before it left for the Interior Ministry building yesterday prior to the attack [word indistinct] the Communist Party office building, and returned there for some time after the attack was over as well. An investigation has begun on yesterday's attack which left five people dead. It must also determine whether there was Communist Party coordination with the Black Beret activities.

'Political Strike' on Riga Railroads Urged

LD2101195191

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Russian at 1309 GMT on 21 January broadcasts a seven-minute interview with Mikhail Yagodkin, head of the Riga section of Latvian railroads, by an unidentified correspondent. The announcer introduces the interview by saying that "a political strike on the railroad has been declared for 0500 tomorrow [0300 GMT 22 Jan]. An announcement to that effect has been posted by the strike committee in the foyer of the headquarters of the Riga section of the railroad."

Yagodkin says that "the strike committee represents the interests of particular enterprises in the railroad section," such as particular stations, depots, and power supply facilities: "In other words, not all the railroad's enterprises." He says that the demands have been passed on to the Ministry of Railways, and enumerates them: "First: the immediate repeal of retail price increases in consumer goods and services, in the absence of a reliable system of compensation. Second: the repeal of laws and resolutions running counter to the USSR Constitution, the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic Constitution, and decrees from the USSR president. Third: the creation of a coalition government, taking into account the interests of all strata of the population. Fourth: provisions for the opportunity for various views to be expressed in the mass media."

Asked how many railroad workers support the demands, Yagodkin says that at the enterprises represented by the strike committee a majority supports them, though there may be other views at other enterprises. He says that

"strike committees have not been formed at all enterprises in the railroad section" and that "some enterprises are putting foward purely economic demands." Asked his "purely personal opinion," Yagodkin says "I am against what is planned for the 22d. Probably everyone understands that if railroad transport comes to a stop, it will damage all enterprises in Riga and those who work in close collaboration with the railroads." He adds that there are also representatives of the railroad's management on the strike committee.

After some discussion of the technical effects of a stoppage, the correspondent asks how such actions can be taken in defense of USSR legislation, when that legislation itself bans strikes, adding that USSR Minister of Railways Konarev has himself appealed to the rail workers to refrain. Yagodkin says that the view of the strike committee is that this is a political strike, not an economic one, and the law and the minister's appeal therefore do not apply. Asked in conclusion how long the strike is set to last, Yagodkin says "as long as the issue remains open; until the demands are met."

Godmanis Urges Workers Not To Strike

LD2101233591 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 2140 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Latvian Prime Minister Godmanis has called on workers, especially those in the Baltic Railroad, to abstain from strikes tomorrow, so as not to aggravate the situation. Representatives of Moscow-(?faithful) Communist Party of Latvia continued to visit the largest factories in Riga urging workers to stage a political strike in the coming days, demanding the resignation of the present parliament and government. A possible worsening of the economic situation is the number one danger in Latvia at the moment, the head of the Latvian legislature Anatolijs Gorbunovs said the day before yesterday.

Foreign Reaction to Latvian Events Reviewed

LD2101160591 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] News agencies are reporting world reaction to the events in Latvia. A White House spokesman stated that the U.S. Administration is deeply troubled by the current events in Riga. May I remind you that this concerns the storming of the Latvian MVD [Interior Ministry] building by a detachment of the USSR MVD OMON [special purpose militia unit] on 20 January.

REUTER reports from London: Great Britain condemns violence committed by Soviet military in Latvia. Danish Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen stated: The countries of the European Community should postpone the planned meeting on economic cooperation with the Soviet Union if the Soviet authorities terminate democratic government in Latvia. Belgium's Foreign Minister Eyskens expressed profound concern at the events in the Baltic region, particularly the ones which took place in Riga on Sunday. In a communique published today, he called upon the authorities in the USSR to put an end to the repressions in the Baltic republics, to display restraint, and to renew the dialogue with their elected leaders. The British GUARDIAN newspaper writes that the case of violent interference in Riga took place on the day when opposition parties staged demonstratins in Moscow and other cities. The DAILY TELEGRAPH newspaper writes that the MVD special trcops are controlled by the Communist Party of Latvia.

Baltic Secretaries Adopt Appeals to Communists, UN

PM2001200091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent O. Meshkov: "Incomplete Session"]

[Text] Riga—A routine session of the Council of Secretaries of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian Communist Party Central Committees was held in Riga, with the participation of people's deputies from opposition factions in the republics' parliaments and representatives of strike committees.

The reason for the broad-based composition of this meeting was that on this occasion it was taking place at a time when tension has reached a peak. It was immediately after the dramatic events in Vilnius, at a time when the working people's struggle for the observance of the USSR Constitution, against separatism and nationalism, and against the onslaught on their vital rights is proceeding both by parliamentary methods, and by the method of political strikes, and even by means of a hunger strike declared by two Estonian opposition parliamentarians. The exceptional urgency of the situation also explains the fact that the comrades from Lithuania were unable to attend the meeting: The trip from Riga would have meant risking detention at the Lithuanian border. However, after hearing on the telephone the content of the documents adopted at the session, they put forward amendments and agreed to sign the documents.

A. Rubiks, Politburo member and first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, spoke in detail about the sociopolitical situation in the republic and the state of affairs in the Communist Party. A similar report was delivered by L. Annus, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee. The participants in the meeting agreed with the proposition put forward by S. Dimanis, leader of the "Equal Rights" faction in the Latvian parliament: The peaceful development of events is the most favorable option for us. Mass psychosis, hysteria, calls for the population to man the barricades, and threats that a fight with Soviet Army units is inevitable (let me remind you that 2,300 pieces of heavy machinery—vehicles, tractors, cranes, and so forth—have been brought onto the streets of Riga to

block bridges, squares, and streets) were provoked by those who want to reinforce separatist aspirations in the people's mood.

Let me emphasize this detail: In response to the proposal by USSR People's Deputy V. Yarovoy, general director of the "Dvigatel" Production Association (Tallinn), that all three first secretaries of the Baltic republics' Communist Party Central Committees should go to Moscow to meet with USSR President M.S. Gorbachev, A. Rubiks expressed the firm conviction that it is necessary more effectively to step up organizational and political work on the spot and to rely more on one's own resources, not on help from the center.

The participants in the session adopted several important documents. A statement by the council of secretaries says, in particular: "Advocating the resolution of the accumulated problems solely by political methods, the Council of Secretaries of the Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian Communist Party Central Committees appeals to communists in all the Union republics to support our efforts to restore the constitutional rule of law and order and to stop human rights violations in the Baltic region." An appeal was adopted to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which the appeal to the United Nations by the leaders of the parliaments of the Baltic republics and the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic], adopted 13 January, is described as unconstitutional and as a prejudiced version of events in the region. An appeal was adopted to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and RSFSR people's deputies, as well as an appeal from the strike committees of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to the country's working people.

Latvian Assembly Approves Measures in Lithuania

PM2001191091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 91 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "In Support of the President's Measures"]

[Text] Riga, 20 Jan—The All-Latvia People's Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the USSR president's measures to stabilize the situation in Lithuania.

The All-Latvia People's Assembly, the document notes, shares the assessment of the situation in Lithuania given by USSR President M.S. Gorbachev in his speech at the USSR Supreme Soviet session on 14 January 1991, and fully supports measures aimed at restoring constitutional order in the republic.

We assess the actions of Soviet Army subunits and USSR MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] troops taking part in imposing constitutional order and ensuring the fulfillment of the decisions of the Third and Fourth Congresses of USSR People's Deputies and USSR presidential decrees as extremely necessary with a view to preventing mass disturbances and large-scale bloodshed.

Internal Affairs Workers Called to Combat

LD2001222691 Riga Domestic Service in Latvian 2200 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] The defense headquarters of the Republic of Latvia informs all employees of the city and district Ministry of Internal Affairs departments of the Republic of Latvia to come to Riga immediately in full combat readiness. Contact the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia or phone Riga at 221-029. I repeat the phone number: 221-029.

Gorbunovs Postpones European Trip

LD2001180491 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Address by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council—live or recorded; Russian version follows Latvian version of the speech]

[Text] Esteemed fellow citizens, it is probably no secret to you that I had planned to visit Sweden, Britain, France, and Germany. This visit was to have taken place on the instructions of the legislature, and I would have taken the opportunity to talk with the leaders of those states who expressed the desire to meet me as chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia.

However, the situation in the world, and also at home, makes me assess all the pros and cons realistically. Weighing everything, especially the situation at home in Latvia, I have decided to postpone this trip.

What are the reasons? There is no doubt that the Latvian legislature is the guarantee of the road of democratic development. This time the situation in our legislature, as throughout Latvia, is the first and main reason for postponing foreign visits. It is superfluous to explain that in the legislature of the Republic of Latvia the effectiveness of work is determined by the actually existing forces within it—namely, the majority, which is the Popular Front of Latvia faction, and also the Equal Rights [ravnopraviye] faction. It is precisely the presence of deputies from both factions that constitutes the strength of our legislature, since it is only dialogue between thesis and antithesis which engenders movement and the birth of thought, movement, and action.

I would not like in any way to assert that at present this development does not exist, or that the work of the legislature is not moving forward. But the reality is such that the Equal Rights faction has for several days now not been attending the sessions. I would like to describe this situation as a sort of crisis in our legislature. If there is some sort of crisis in the legislature, then I as its leader have no moral right, even for a few days as had been planned this time, to leave the republic and its Supreme Council.

I do not want to analyse the reasons here. This will be taken up by the legislature itself. But one thing is

clear—it is essential and important to create a conciliation mechanism, set up on the principles of parity, which could be in the form of an interfaction commission. I know that last week the leader of the Latvian Popular Front faction made an appeal to the opposition faction to return to the legislature. The position and conditions of the Equal Rights faction are also known; these show a desire to resume joint work.

Today I also appeal for the creation of such a conciliation commission without delay, so that next week the Equal Rights faction may take part in the parliamentary session scheduled for 1000 on Monday. For my part I shall be concerned to ensure that this return of the deputies of the Equal Rights faction to their place of work is perceived naturally.

Another thing: I consider that the Latvian Popular Front faction should think seriously about the proposals of the opposition faction on continuing work. Possibly they should hold a joint discussion of the well-founded conditions raised by the opposition, and this dialogue should take place. We should solve our contradictions by democratic means, and in our home; that is, here in the legislature building, not on the streets, at rallies, or at strike committees.

The Latvian Popular Front faction, as the majority, must accept all the responsibility, and thereby ensure that the resolutions adopted at the plenary sessions next week truly reflect the opinion of the people of Latvia. However, with all that I have said above, I would not like to create the impression that this crisis in the legislature, as I put it, should be seen as a dramatic event for you, since in reality the Equal Rights faction has not been present in the chamber for several days. Nevertheless, it has spoken to us and expressed its views on the situation in the republic. Although this opinion sometimes differed from ours, this shows the desire to be with the Republic of Latvia at this difficult time.

Perhaps you do not know this but, for example, Deputy Yevgeniy Yagupets [anti-separatist Russian deputy] participated very seriously in the discussion and signing of the treaty between Russia and the Republic of Latvia which took place in Tallinn. He was also one of those who bravely tried to hold talks with the fighters of the armed OMON [special purpose militia units] detachment in their barracks.

Even Deputy Vladimir Zatuleviter said at a news conference in the officers club that if tanks really appear near the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic he would be among those who would without fear go to oppose those tanks. Therefore, in my opinion, there is no reason why we should doubt that these deputies are interested in working with all of us and struggling against those forces which at present prevent us from doing so. I have declared on television and radio many times that together with the entire people we won a great moral victory last week. It is difficut for me to find the necessary words of gratitude for your devotion and selflessness during those days. The most important thing now is to work and prevent crisis in the republican economy. I hope that in the legislature, too, creative and strenuous work on the draft bills which are in our briefcases and which are awaited by the government and by you, will go on.

Kauls Resigns From CPSU, Salvation Committee

LD2001222791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 2040 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report from Ayvers Kaunich and Sergey Antopov on the situation in Riga; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Kaunich] The inhabitants of the republic are voluntarily keeping watch at the barricades outside the Supreme Soviet, Council of Ministers, and communications and radio and television centers. Today, under the leadership of the State Commission for Self-defense, reorganization is taking place. Trucks and agricultural vehicles at the barricades are being replaced with concrete structures. However, the situation continues to be tense and is changing practically by the hour. What is the balance of forces today?

[Antopov] At the all-Latvian demonstration in support of the government and Supreme Soviet there were many more people than at the all-Latvian meeting in support of the Committee for Public Salvation.

[Kaunich] Now for the latest news: Directly opposite the building of the Supreme Soviet, in the Catholic cathedral, Francesco Colasuonno, the pope's envoy, took part in a service today. Albert Kauls, the only representative of the Baltic in the Presidential Council, has announced his departure from the CPSU and the leadership of the Committee for Public Salvation, assessing its activities as adventurist.

Early this morning a vehicle of a self-defense detachment disappeared without trace; five persons were in it. The last radio report came at 0330 and then communications were cut off in mid-sentence. An investigation is being carried out. This is Ayvers Kaunich and Sergey Antopov for the Sunday edition of the Television News Service.

Representative to Moscow Says Capital 'Explosive'

LD2001100991 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 0912 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] A routine session of the Council of Ministers has been held. The members of the government reviewed the situation in Riga and the possibilities of protecting the main sites in the city. Janis Peters, the permanent representative of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia in Moscow, informed the participants about the situation in the center. He described it as explosive. The main thing is the difficult food situation

and the political situation. Janis Peters noted that contacts are continuing with the Soviet Union at various levels, with Gorbachev, Pugo, and Yazov.

Colonel Interviewed on Autumn Draft in Latvia

LD2001201691 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpts] One-third of the autumn plan for call-up to the Soviet Army has been fulfilled in Latvia. Correspondent Vladimir Abramson spoke to Colonel Vladimir Grigoryevich Yakovlev, the deputy military commissar of Latvia.

[Begin recording] [Abramson] Vladimir Grigoryevich, how many young men in our republic do alternative service?

[Yakovlev] This figure has been given many times. It is more than 5,000 young men who are doing this so-called labor service.

[Abramson] Has a new situation taken shape as regards this problem following the meeting between President Gorbunovs and Colonel-General Fedor Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic Military District?

[Yakovlev] A new situation has not taken shape all of the sudden, but some deserters have started coming back to their subunits. Young men who are doing alternative service and those who are not doing any service—there are about 1,600 of them—have begun applying to the military recruitment offices to be drafted for active service.

[Abramson] About 10,000 men should have been drafted from Latvia last autumn. We know that such a number has not been drafted. Will there be another call-up?

[Yakovlev] The minister of defense has made a decision to continue the call-up in January. Therefore, the draft continues. Small numbers of young men are arriving at the recruitment offices, but we are increasing the plan. [as heard] More than 26 percent of the plan has been fulfilled. [passage omitted]

[Abramson] What about the rumors that paratroopers will be looking for draft dodgers and will bring them to the recruitment offices. What is your opinion on this statement?

[Yakovlev] I think these are fantasies created by individuals. The republican military office, and district and city military offices, in particular, have received no orders or instructions to be ready to search for deserters or draft dodgers with the help of paratroopers. We have received no such task, so I can not say anything as regards this issue.

[Abramson] Yes, but then it remains for me to ask whether special airborne assault units have arrived.

[Yakovlev] I have nothing to do with this type of troops, assault troops, you understand, so it is difficult for me to say. I do know that those units which are permanently stationed here, on the territory of Latvia, are still here. I have not heard about or seen any additional contingents on the territory of the Latvian Republic, and no one has reported any information to us, to the local military administration bodies. [end recording]

Commission Calls for Objective Journalism

LD2001204891 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Today the deputies' group which, at the instruction of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has been studying the situation in Latvia, finished its work. Before its departure a news conference was held. The commission positively assessed the activity of the republic's leadership in stabilizing the situation and in setting up contacts between various forces. A particular request was voiced both to Soviet and foreign journalists to cover the processes taking place in Latvia objectively.

Finland Protests Maltreatment of Journalists

LD2201095691 Moscow TASS in English 0733 GMT 22 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Voito Leskinen]

[Text] Helsinki January 22 TASS—The Finnish Foreign Ministry on Monday called the attention of the Soviet Embassy in Finland to the events in Vilnius last week and in Riga on Sunday, during which groups of Finnish journalists were attacked.

A representative of the Finnish Foreign Ministry called on the Soviet Embassy in Finland to ensure that a recurrence of such incidents is avoided and also to enable foreign journalists to carry on their activity in line with the decisions of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, the Finnish Telegraph Bureau (FNB) reports.

Finnish Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio, visiting the city of Turku, expressed deep regret over the beating up of Finnish journalist Hannu Vaeisaenen during unrest in Riga on Sunday.

Ari Jarvinen, managing director of the Yleisradio Television News programme, also expressed regret over the incident, FNB reports.

The Finnish journalists union on Monday published a statement expressing serious concern over "open violence used against a Finnish journalist and, correspondingly, the mass media in Riga". The document calls for an end of such incidents. The statement was conveyed to Soviet Ambassador to Finland B.I. Aristov and the USSR Journalists Union.

Estonia

Ruutel Instructed To 'Contact' Gorbachev

LD1801105391 Moscow TASS in English 0941 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn January 18 TASS—In response to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal to continue the dialogue between the centre and Estonia, the Presidium of the republican parliament instructed Arnold Ruutel, president of the Estonian parliament, to immediately enter into contact with Gorbachev.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the republican parliament Presidium. It is so far unknown how the contact will be established and what documents were considered at the Presidium's meeting in this connection.

Meanwhile the situation in the republic is calm in general despite an anti-government strike, a hunger strike by two opposition deputies and the formation of workers' squads by strikers.

While the beginning of a strike at Dvigatel and Prompribor plants is being reported, others discuss the strike issue at meetings.

Gorbachev Invites Ruutel to Moscow

LD2001174891 Hamburg DPA in German 1709 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tallinn (DPA)—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev invited Estonian President Arnold Ruutel to Moscow for negotiations today. This was announced by the Estonian Foreign Ministry in Tallinn. According to this information, the issues to be discussed are the current situation in Estonia and future relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic, now seeking complete independence.

According to Ruutel, he has tried in vain for several days to arrange a meeting with Gorbachev. Attempts by telephone have been refused because of the Kremlin chief's "lack of time", Estonian Government circles said.

Also today at a mass rally of the Estonian "Popular Front" in Tallinn, attended by 5,000 people, the Russian ex-KGB general Oleg Kalugin stated that as far as the Soviet side is concerned, the current scenario in the Baltics is identical with the situation in 1968 before the use of Warsaw Pact troops in the CSFR.

Ruutel Talks With Gorbachev, Yazov

LD2101135991 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1300 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Raul Malk report]

[Text] Today a 90-minute meeting of Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Republic of Estonia Supreme Soviet, and USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev took place in the Kremlin. Arnold Ruutel informed the USSR president of the processes in the Baltic states, and naturally, first and foremost, in Estonia. They reached an agreement on the need for talks between top-level delegations. Within the next few days specific bilateral preparations will start. Our side's stances were presented to the USSR president on the issues connected with the talks. As is known, Estonia's positions were last discussed by the Supreme Soviet Presidium on 15 January. The most important issue for us is that of restoring factual independence.

In the discussion of the recent events in Estonia, an agreement was reached to the effect that Arnold Ruutel will immediately inform Mikhail Gorbachev of any cases of force having been used or of any attempts to use force, and the USSR president will implement measures at his disposal to block the use of any kind of force.

Estonia's stances on army issues were presented to Mikhail Gorbachev. Mikhail Gorbachev immediately contacted Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov and, following the talks, another separate meeting took place.

Mikhail Gorbachev and Arnold Ruutel talked about the issues of developing foreign relations. They discussed economic issues. During the talks it was found that economic issues should be considered as thoroughly as possible right at the beginning. The discussion of Arnold Ruutel and Mikhail Gorbachev was characterized by constructiveness and attention to the positions of the other side.

Arnold Ruutel and Arno Almann [secretary of the Supreme Soviet Presidium], who is also in Moscow, had a discussion with USSR Defense Minister Yazov. USSR Chief of Staff Moiseyev and General Krivosheyev, who recently visited Estonia with a delegation, were also present. At the level of the USSR Defense Ministry there were also assurances that armed force will not be used in Estonia to resolve any kind of political issues and armed force will not be used to mobilize young men into the army. The known Estonian stances on army issues were repeated to the USSR Defense Ministry's leadership, and it was agreed that the working group, which has already been in Tallinn once, will continue its meetings and will strive for some kind of solution with respect to army matters.

Ruutel, Gorbachev Agree to Talks

LD2101172491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1635 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—TASS correspondent Ruben Shirinyan asked the Estonian permanent mission in Moscow to comment on the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Arnold Ruutel. A spokesman of the "BALTIC NEWS SERVICE" news agency, who came to the telephone, said that "the sides came to a decision on

the need to immediately start talks at the highest level between the delegations of both sides." An understanding was also reached that "on any instances of or the threat of the use of force the chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet will immediately inform the president of the USSR who will take the necessary measures."

Arnold Ruutel also met with Dmitriy Yazov, the USSR minister of defense, and Mikhail Moiseyev, chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces. The military side promised not to use force in the republic. The commission, which was established at the beginning of January from representatives of the General Staff and Government of Estonia, will continue its work.

Meeting Termed 'Constructive'

LD2101151591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1449 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 21 Jan (TASS)—A meeting was held in the Kremlin today between Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the USSR, and Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet. The situation in the Baltic region and also a range of questions connected with the preparation of the union treaty were examined during a thorough, constructive conversation. It was noted that the creation of working groups to represent both the Republic of Estonia and the center would be a useful step in this respect.

Ruutel Holds News Conference

LD2101194691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1855 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By correspondent Aleksandr Golovanov]

[Text] Moscow 21 Jan (TASS)—"The chief result of today's one and one-half hour conversation with Mikhail Gorbachev was our mutual recognition of the need to start 'top-level talks' between the Soviet Union and Estonia to resolve the issue of Estonia's future," Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Republic, stated today at a news conference.

He expressed regret that up to now the episodic meetings between prime ministers of the Baltic Republics and the top leadership of the USSR have not made it possible to carry out a serious analysis of the "dead-end situation in the Baltic region" that has come about.

The chairman of Estonia's Supreme Soviet observed that the republic's policy "is based on the figures from sociological polls carried out in Estonia, according to which 95 percent of Estonians believe the republic should become an independent state with close economic ties with the USSR." At the same time, Ruutel noted, only one-quarter of the Russian-speaking population in the poll comes out against Estonia's independence. "I set this demand before the USSR president," said Arnold Ruutel, "and it seemed to me that he understands."

Arnold Ruutel stated that "The USSR president did not name any specific date" for the beginning of talks between Estonia and the USSR, and "proposed discussion of the political situation" in Estonia. "At the same time, the president did not evade our demand to become an independent state."

Arnold Ruutel referred to "guarantees" given by the USSR president that military force would not be used in the future. The president, he said, asked "to be informed immediately" if there are any kind of excesses.

Savisaar Visits Military Unit Near Tallinn

LD1801131191 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1000 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Edgar Savisaar, leader of the Republic of Estonia government, today visited a motorized infantry division based at Tondi [suburb of Tallinn].

The prime minister was met by the division leadership. Major General Nikolay (Dayllatov), deputy commander of the Baltic Military District, was also present. Army unit commanders showed the prime minister the officers' and their families' living quarters and daily conditions. The prime minister visited structures built on the territory of the Army unit where officers' families live in rooms without modern conveniences. The prime minister was interested in relations between the Army unit and the local authorities and drew attention to possibilities which have not so far been utilized [words indistict] The military were also informed of the government's plans for dealing with army issues in the near future.

A discussion was held on topical political events both in Estonia, the USSR, and in the Persian Gulf region.

At the end of his visit to the Army unit, a meeting took place between the prime minister and the officers together with members of their families. Edgar Savisaar spoke about political and economic reorganization taking place in Estonia. Speaking about external economic relations he emphasized the importance of contractual relations with Russia, the Ukraine, and several other USSR Union republics. He emphasized that it is impossible to reestablish prices that were in effect before October. Edgar Savisaar listened to the proposals from the military and answered questions. [words indistinct] The activity of military engineers who are engaged in defusing mines in several areas of Estonia was discussed in a businesslike manner.

Estonian Leaders Discuss 'Complex' Situation

LD2101153291

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0930 GMT on 21 January carries a four-minute recorded interview with Estonian Communist Party Secretary Arnold and Estonian Supreme Soviet Chairman Arnold Ruutel on 19 January. The place is not given.

Arnold describes the situation as "complex and dramatic". He says that the objective of the Communist Party is to normalize the situation. The Estonian Communist Party prefers peaceful methods such as rallies and Communist work in labor collectives. He says: we are "the party of social protection. Therefore the party is conducting active work in the Estonian Supreme Soviet." Price increases have complicated the social situation in the republic, he continues, "Therefore our first demand is that all decisions to this effect be suspended. We understand very well that prices will rise. After all the price policy as a whole must be the same across the whole country."

Arnold goes to say that the rally on 15 January adopted a decision that the traditional committee of labor collectives and deputies will work for resignation of the government and the dissolution of the Estonian Supreme Soviet. "The current government of Estonia does not enjoy the trust of the people. and therefore this government must resign, of course. But the party itself does not recognize force as method of achieving its end."

As regard the nunmbers in the party, Arnold says "After a split at the 20th Party Congress, the republican party organization has lost more than half its members. But, admittedly the Estonian Communist Party is today the largest political force in the country. There are 33,000 Communists in our ranks. And therefore our influence in all spheres is tangible."

This is followed by an interview with Estonian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruutel.

Speaking about the situation in the republic, Ruutel says: "There is commotion in Lithuania. And many are warning that the same could happen in Estonia."

Asked whether "he rules out the possibility of the use of the armed forces on the territory of the republic," Ruutel says: "I have made several calls to Moscow to speak to the president, and I was not put through. But I spoke to Lukyanov instead and he said that nothing like this could happen in Estonia. In Lithuania the decision to use force was adopted by local military units and the head of the garrison. This is what worries people the most at present."

He goes on: "I met all the commanders of troop units (?in our republic) and we discussed many problems, including troop problems and incidents, and whether similar events could take place in Estonia. They guaranteed that this cannot happen. And I was given the officer's word of honor. And I sincerely hope that they keep their word."

Savisaar Attends People's Front Meeting

LD2101210291 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Report by Heymar Lenk in Tallinn; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Last night there were two explosions in Tallinn. There were no victims. The political strike at enterprises subordinate to the Union continues. Local industry and transport is functioning normally. Political debates, meetings, and rallies are taking place throughout the republic.

At a political meeting of the People's Front in Tallinn's Town Hall, the head of the government Edgar Savisaar clarified the situation in Estonia. He reiterated that the present government will not resign as demanded by participants in a rally of collectives from enterprises subordinate to the Union on 15 January.

At the meeting in the Town Hall, in which, incidentally, USSR People's Deputy Oleg Kalugin also took part, it was once again stressed that Estonia is not moving away from the course toward full state sovereignty. It was calm this afternoon on the square outside the government building and on the streets of Tallinn.

Blasts in Tallinn Damage Buildings; No Casualties

LD2101080491 Moscow TASS in English 0757 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By correpondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Two blasts ripped the air in the Estonian capital Tallinn at about 2:00 today. One of them went off in front of the executive committee of the amalgamated council of work collectives and the other—at the Tallinn ship-repair yards, near the headquarters of the republican strike committee.

Both buildings were damaged. Luckily, there were no casualties. Law enforcement bodies are conducting an investigation.

Groups Lay Blame for Explosions

LD2101142591 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 21 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tallinn January 21 TASS—There were two explosions in the Estonian capital on Sunday night, one at the building of the Executive Committee of the Joint Council of Work Collectives, which includes mainly enterprises subordinated to the center, and the second—next to the republican Strike Committees Council, which is near the entrance to the Tallinn shipbuilding plant. There were no casualities.

In light of this, the Executive Committee of the Inter-Regional Council of People's Deputies and representatives of the working people of Estonia addressed a message to the Estonian Supreme Soviet. It says that this was a "provocation" by forces prompted to "irresponsible acts by some members of the government and the Supreme Soviet. These forces foment national strife and refuse to take measures to stabilise the situation".

"Such developments," the message says, "are needed by some circles in the republic to implement the jointly planned Baltic campaign to discredit the army and the Russian-speaking population, as well as to attract the attention of world public opinion".

The Executive Committee of the Inter-Regional Council urged the Estonian Supreme Soviet and Government to take urgent measures to prevent such provocations.

Tallinn Steps Up Security at Foreign Missions

LD2101195291 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The Estonian Government has intensified security measures at foreign missions in Tallinn because of the fighting in Latvia last night. According to Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, a round-the-clock guard has been ordered outside the Finnish, Swedish, and Lithuanian missions. The atmosphere in Tallinn is tense and excited. More stone blocks have been placed outside the parliament building to strengthen the barricades built last week.

Tallinn Command Denies Coup 'Forecasts'

LD1801115691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1026 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tallinn, 18 Jan (TASS)—Tallinn Garrison Command has denied as "lies and insinuations" the groundless "forecasts" that are being circulated by the local press about the alleged forthcoming "overthrow" of Estonia's legal authorities by the USSR Armed Forces.

In the command's statement published today, it is noted that on the basis of their own fabrications about "the military threat" the Estonian authorities created on 13 January a constitutional defense council, and the militarized nationalist organizations are being brought into a state of readiness to repulse the "aggressor." At Estonian People's Front bases, a system of defense command is being organized, rallies of reservists are being held in order to organize them into self-defense units.

In connection with this, the Tallinn Garrison Command has condemned the position of Boris Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian legislature, and the Leningrad deputies who visited Tallinn, who "while bringing forward serious accusations against the military command, did not even attempt to investigate the position of the officers and their families in the Baltic."

The command declares that this propaganda campaign is aimed at helping the government to survive the period of crisis by getting the people's support under the banner of "freedom to Estonia".

Ruutel Meets With Local Military Commanders

LD2001135591 Riga Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] In an interview on Estonian Radio, Arnold Ruutel reported on his meeting with the commanders of all military units stationed in Estonia. He conducted this meeting jointly with Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar. Ruutel expressed the hope that the military will keep their word and not act against unarmed people. However, he stated that the barricades will remain, while Radio Nadezhda, located on the territory of a military unit in Keila not far from Tallinn is still calling on workers to convene strike force groups around the government building on Toompea. Their purpose is to prevent terrorist acts.

Tallinn Commander Assails 'Blatant Provocation'

LD1801211191 Moscow TASS in English 2030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[Text] Tallinn January 18 TASS— Engineering work has forged ahead at full tilt around the house of the Estonian Government in Tallinn. It seems that preparations are being made to repulse an attack.

People's deputy of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Sergey Petinov called TASS bureau in the afternoon. He and another deputy Vladimir Lebedev went on a hunger strike on Thursday. Petinov told the TASS correspondent he was in the parliament's conference hall and asked him to come immediately.

At 1500 local time I drove to the parliament building and saw trucks carrying ferro-concrete panels. The main road was already blocked by a huge granite boulder. I failed to make my way into the building where the Supreme Soviet usually holds its sessions. Representatives of the guard service looked at my TASS card and told me that TASS correspondents were barred from the building by the order of Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar.

Recent days have seen a large number of militiamen, police and members of the Kodukajtse organisation in the house of the government. Judging by everything, the selection of "suitable" journalists has already begun, something wrong is being prepared.

Rear-Admiral Yuri Belov, head of the Tallinn garrison, described the work to put up barricades around the house of government as a "blatant provocation". "The move is artificially fanning up tension", he stressed in a TASS interview.

"I think that Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, seeing that political and socio-economic affairs came to an impasse, is beginning to look for a way out of the situation. The easiest way in the Baltic republics today is to excite people.

"One of such moves was made on Thursday when the assembly of former paratroopers was announced to set up new, non-state military structures in Estonia. This was a pure provocation aimed to intimidate the Russian-speaking population, including strikers", Belov said.

"Possibly, the present erection of barricades was organised to create an appropriate atmosphere before a mass action of the Estonian Popular Front, which is scheduled to take place in the Tallinn City Hall on Sunday, January 20, under the name Estonia and Russia: Where tanks will enter first?' It was announced that former KGB general and now USSR people's deputy Oleg Kalugin was expected to attend the event and make a speech."

"As for the talk about an armed seizure of the house of government—this speculation is circulating widely on the Tallinn streets—it is groundless. As head of the Tallinn garrison, I would have known about this," Belov said.

Barricades in Tallinn To Stop 'Pro-Soviet' Rally

AU1801180091 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (AFP)—Estonian leaders on Friday ordered barricades erected in Tallinn, the Baltic republic's capital, to foil protests by pro-Soviet groups, an Estonian nationalist told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone.

Barricades were being put up after all kinds of material were assembled in Tallinn streets, Eugen Pass, a leader of the Estonian Popular Front, the majority group in the republic's Parliament, said.

Barricades have reportedly also been erected in Vilnius and Riga, capitals of the neighbouring republics of Lithuania and Latvia.

"There is only one access street (to Tallinn's old town) which military vehicles can use", Mr. Pass said.

The port city's old town is surrounded by a well-preserved historic wall.

Mr. Pass said the Estonian crisis team which groups the republic's leaders, including President Arnold Ruutel and Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar, made the appeal after the anti- independentists' radio station, Radio Nadezhda, repeatedly called for an uprising to stop Estonia's drive for secession.

The crisis staff was set up early this week.

"Radio Nadezhda (the Russian word for hope) incessantly calls for the formation of workers units, as in Lithuania and Latvia", Mr. Pass added.

So far, the pro-Soviet Coordinating Council, the Estonian equivalent of Lithuania's National Salvation Committee, "has not decreed that it is taking over", he said.

"Right now the situation in Tallinn is calm and as far as we know no military reinforcements have been sent to Estonia", Mr. Pass said.

Barricades Erected as 'Precaution'

LD1801161791 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] During the past few hours our editorial office has been receiving telephone calls. We have been asked about what is taking place at present on Toompea [seat of the Supreme Soviet and of the government]. People are worried because men from the Estonian Kodukaitse [home defense force] are building barricades across the roads leading up to the palace. The headquarters of the Estonian Kodukaitse inform you that there is no cause for worry. There is no news of a threatening danger. Barricades are simply being built as a precaution because the Nadezhda radio station will not stop inciting.

Barricades in Case of 'Tank Attack'

LD1801221391

[Editorial Report] Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian at 1839 GMT on 18 January carries a two-minute telephone announcer's interview with an unidentified Estonian correspondent in Tallinn. The correspondent reports:

"The situation in Estonia so far is calm. It is calm on the streets. All the people are calm and restrained." She adds that construction materials are on hand "to put up barricades" if a tank attack takes place. She claims that the situation "in Estonia, compared to Lithuania and Latvia, is calm so far." Referring to the general mood in Estonia on the tragic events in Lithuania she says: "This worries us very much. We have daily and 24 hour contacts with Lithuania.... If anything takes place in Riga and Lithuania we will know about it."

The announcer asks whether they can hear the radio transmissions from the Voice of Vilnius and the Voice of Lithuanian radio. She states: "We can hear the voice of your Vilnius radio. We listen to it all the time but we do not understand anything. Only Lithuanians can understand it."

Savisaar Offers To Remove Barricades

LD1901143191 Hamburg DPA in German 1351 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Tallinn (DPA)—The Estonian prime minister, Edgar Savisaar, has today offered to take down the barricades erected yesterday around the legislature and government buildings in Tallinn. He gave as a condition for this the ending of propaganda broadcasts by the radio station of the pro-Soviet Intermovement.

The situation in Tallinn is completely calm on the day after the building of barricades at the request of the government. Savisaar stated the barricades are not directed against Soviet troops in Estonia, but a reaction

to the call put out by the Intermovement to its members via the radio to pursue their goals with weapons.

The Estonian prime minister also announced that he is in permanent contact with the Soviet troops. "Our relations with them are not hostile," Savisaar said and called on the population to be calm and behave in a friendly manner to Russians and Soviet soldiers.

"The frontline here does not run between Estonians and Russians, but between those who want democracy and those who want to set up the old empire again," the prime minister said.

Barricades 'To Impress Foreigners'

LD2001175791 Moscow TASS in English 1743 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Albert Maloveryan report]

[Text] Tallinn January 20 TASS—"This is above all a political show to impress foreigners," Estonian People's Deputy Peat Kask said about the barricades built around the government residence in Tallinn.

The construction of barricades of granite boulders and ferro- concrete blocks in the streets leading up to the Toompea Palace in central Tallinn began last Friday.

At the same time, guards outside the government building were reinforced and the regime inside the building was toughened, barring out journalists.

Estonian KGB Chief Rein Sillar denied having any information about plans to topple the government.

Asked on whose orders the barricades were constructed, Estonian Interior Minister Olev Laanyarv said, "I am not involved".

According to Estonian President Arnold Ruutel there was no evidence of additional troops brought in or of plans to do so.

Deputy Ants Paju said the situation was more than strange. "Our words say we are calm but our deeds betray nervousness. We are talking about the prime minister meeting the military and about the resumption of the dialogue between Estonia and the centre and at the same time begin building barricades".

According to some deputies the building of barricades and the tougher regime in the Government building are not only a show to impress foreigners but also an attempt at protecting some Estonian politicians against rebukes from Lithuania for being not active and self-sacrificing enough in the struggle for independence.

Before Friday, Tallinn was the only Baltic capital without barricades in it.

Savisaar Views 'Scenario', Need for Calm

LD2101151791 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 0900 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Studio interview with Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar by unidentified announcer—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] This anxious working week through which we have lived, fluctuating between hope and hopelessness as we have listened to news of wars both near and far away, has come to an end. Now Edgar Savisaar, chairman of the Republic of Estonia Government, is at the microphone for his regular Saturday radio appearance.

Let us begin with the following: Have the Baltic events gone according to a certain scenario? Has everything gone the way those forces expected?

[Savisaar] I believe that a scenario undoubtedly existed. I imagine that it has been put together somewhere at the top of the USSR's political power structure. I will never believe that the events in Vilnius or Riga would be the result of a colonel's or general's activity on his own. But the scenario reminds one largely of what took place in 1940: The people's patience snaps, there is an army present by chance; it will help the unarmed working people to subdue the armed nationalists and separatists. This is very familiar; this is indeed the scenario of communist dreams. Yet it was not realized because Lithuania proved to be stronger than expected. So the plan to deal with Lithuania quickly and then do the same in Latvia and Lithuania did not succeed. Now everything is already much more difficult. [passage omitted]

In fact, our geographical position is a guarantee. It must indeed be a very naive person who thinks that the Estonian state—also in the future—located next to Russia, can conduct a policy hostile to Russia. It is quite necessary for the life of the Estonian state that the non-Estonians—and the Russians here in particular—feel secure, and many non-Estonians who approach things soberly have also understood this and view with sad irony the Inter-Movement members running around. But this does not prevent a noisy minority from taking very dangerous steps indeed, in case this proves to be their last chance to preserve their old privileges. [passage omitted]

The recommendation and appeal to stay calm is indeed most important at the moment. How one is to be calm is a much harder matter. Frankly, one should also wish for a calm and sober mind for the leadership. [passage omitted]

Strikes in Tallinn 17 Jan; News Conference Held

PM1801145091 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 91 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report under the rubric "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow": "Strike in Republic Under Way"]

[Text] Tallinn, 17 Jan—A strike began in Estonia today. As we were informed in the republic's council of strike committees, at 1800 local time work ceased at 11 enterprises amongst which are such large plants in Estonia's capital as "Dvigatel," "Volta," the Tallinn ship repair plant, and the "Elektrotekhnika" association.

At a news conference, it was emphasized that the strike is as much economic as political in nature. Thus the demands made by participants in the rally which took place in the capital of Estonia 15 January, mention restoring in the republic the operation of the USSR Constitution and that of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic, the execution of all USSR presidential decrees, and a review of all laws and resolutions violating human rights, including those of servicemen. These together with the demand to change the composition of the Estonian cabinet of ministers and to form a new government of people's accord using a quota system, have not been carried out. And this strike is a reaction to the inaction of the republic's leadership.

More Enterprises Join Strike

LD1801210591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by correspondent Kh. Lenk in Estonia]

[Excerpt] Initial reports on strikes began to come in yesterday afternoon. This morning rallies were held at many enterprises. They adopted a decision to join those on strike. At this moment most major industrial enterprises subordinated to the state have stopped work. Although these are the richest enterprises in the republic, they are subjecting the government to the sharpest criticism. [passage omitted]

Twenty Enterprises on Strike

PM2101165191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent L. Levitskiy: "Tallinn: Tension Remains"]

[Text] Tallinn—A massive crane has been used to block the approaches to Toompea hill with rubble and concrete slabs. A barricade of stone blocks has been built across the square in front of the government complex.

It is guarded by a line of "Kodukaitse" members with "democratizers" in their hands. The ancient fortress is again preparing to repel an assault.

The Estonian Defense Council discussed the issue of barricades. It decided by a majority not to erect any. Nevertheless, the government complex has been protected from curious tourists and from... the Aleksandr Nevskiy Orthodox Cathedral by a concrete wall.

"It is a symbol of Estonia's struggle. Everyone must see that we are putting up resistance in the same way as Latvia and Lithuania," a leading Estonian television observer said, explaining the need for the obstacles.

A dummy machine gun in a government building window trained its black barrel on the square, on the cathedral.

Supreme Soviet Deputies V. Lebedev and S. Petanov have been on a hunger strike for five days now in the barricaded building.

Twenty Tallinn enterprises, which means over 40,000 workers, are on strike. The gantry cranes stand idle in the trading ports.

And explosions have rung out. There was a mighty explosion around 0300 hours (Moscow time) outside the building of the Estonian United Council of Labor Collectives. Five minutes later there was an explosion outside the Tallinn ship repair plant club. The republican strike committee is there. Fortunately there were no deaths or injuries.

Sunday night saw the barbaric destruction of the "Volta" plant kindergarten. There was yet another incident—an anonymous caller warned that a bomb had been planted at the Tallin ship repair plant kindergarten.

The scenes of the explosions were visited by the militia. An investigation has begun.

'Estonian Committee' Urges 'Civil Disobedience'

LD1901161991 Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn January 19 TASS—The Estonian Committee suggests that several thousand Estonian youths, dodging the conscription to the Soviet Army, go underground. The Estonian Committee is an elected body of the Congress of Estonian Citizens, a public organisation, which advocates the restoration of the 1938 bourgeois republic.

The committee calls not only on Estonian citizens to begin civil disobedience but also on bodies of local government, enterprises and organisations.

Appealing to young Estonians, the Committee advises them not to come to draft or recruiting centres, not to open doors to unknown people, not to answer telephone calls, not to report for work, not to go to school, etc.

The above are the Committee's recommendations to Estonian youths who decide to flee from "persecutions by a foreign army", the appeal says.

According to available information, several thousands of young Estonians did not come to draft centres in 1990. They and their parents pinned their hopes on the unilateral repeal of "the All- Union Law on Universal Military Duty" by the republican parliament and a law on alternative labour service adopted by the Republic.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitriy Yazov gave orders to conduct mobilisation early in January. However, Estonia postponed the mobilisation orders.

The following political decision was reached during talks between Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and Yazov and subsequent consuiltations within a joint commission: young people who would come voluntarily, would not be held criminally responsible and they would serve in units stationed in Estonia.

But the Estonian Committee opposes this decision.

Supreme Soviet Debates Draft Declaration

LD2101185991 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 21 Jan91

[Andrey Trapeznikov report by telephone from Tallinn]

[Text] Today's situation in the capital of Estonia is calm. Despite the political strike at a number of industrial enterprises, state offices, stores, and public transport are working. An hour ago, at Toompea Castle, the session of the republican Supreme Soviet resumed. The castle itself, where I presently am, resembles a besieged fortress. The approaches to it are blocked by concrete slabs and blocks of granite. The castle is carefully guarded.

The sitting began in a tense atmosphere. A strong influence has been felt both by yesterday's events in Riga and by two explosions in the city, the Republic's capital, during the night. The sitting began with the majority of deputies voting to give Ulo Nugis, speaker of the Supreme Soviet, emergency powers. This makes it possible for Nugis to present issues that are not on the agenda for discussion by deputies. The speaker immediately used the right granted him, and a draft declaration of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Republic, in connection with the situation in the Baltic region, was presented for discussion.

The draft was submitted on behalf of a commission formed in the Council of Elders. The declaration includes, in particular, an appeal from the Soviet Union and to the whole world public, that it recognized that it is not different nationality groups that are in opposition to each other in the Baltic region. In the view of the authors of the appeal, what is at issue is an attempt by the Soviet leadership to stifle the aspirations of the peoples of the Baltic region to freedom, thereby halting the process of democratization in the Soviet Union.

The draft also contains an appeal to the Soviet Union's president to immediately take steps for the withdrawal from the Baltic region of armed units of the USSR, which have, deputies consider, become the cause of tension and bloodshed here. The leadership of the Soviet Union is asked to give orders to the troops to end the operations of the Radio Nadezhda station, which is located in the Estonian Republic on the premises of the military unit in the town of Keila, and which engages in inflaming interethnic strife and war propaganda.

Deputies who spoke afterwards—head of the government Svisaar and deputies Tarand, Panfilov, and others—concentrated on the latest events in the Republic. All the speakers called for the establishment of civic peace in Estonia. A worthy appeal, it might seem— but as the progress of the debate showed, the deputies were coming to one question: Who is to blame? There were quite a few claims by the two sides, so that no productive talks are yet emerging from the sitting. The sitting is continuing its work, but the tension in the city and in the Republic meanwhile remains. That is all that I have to report to date.

Estonian Ex-Paratroopers Volunteer for Service

LD1801111891 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Over 200 men responded to the appeal of the State and Border Defense Department of the State Chancellery for Estonians who have served in the [USSR] airborne forces. They have gathered today in Tallinn. If necessary, they will be used to resolve critical situations in Estonia. Those ex-paratroopers who could not turn up today in Tallinn, can be registered at state and border defense departments of town and district governments.

Tallinn Mayor Says Situation 'Overdramatized'

LD1901142591 Hamburg DPA in German 1319 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Hamburg/Wesel (DPA)—Hardo Aasmae, mayor of Tallinn, capital of the Estonian Republic, does not consider forcible intervention in Estonia by the Soviet Army very probable. The commander of the Soviet garrison in Tallinn, Vice Admiral Yuriy Belov, stated two days ago the units do not want to be involved in the internal political conflict.

"Most of the army is not conservative. Such an impression is misleading," Aasmae stressed today in an interview with DPA. Aasmae, who is also a deputy in the Soviet national parliament, is currently in Wesel for a meeting of the Hanseatic Commission.

Aasmae also described the possibility of "extremist political forces" storming the Estonian legislature as relatively improbable. "I do not rule this out 100 percent, but the probability is falling from day to day." On his departure from Talinn at 1100 GMT yesterday the situation was calm in Estonia. A few political strikes have been called. He had only learned of the construction of barricades around the legislature in Germany. "It was a real surprise to me."

"If barricades have really been built, they can only have a preventative nature toward individual extremist groups who might have surprises up their sleeves," the mayor said. Aasmae estimated the supporters of this pro-Soviet movement at "a few hundred" in Tallinn.

According to Aasmae, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev three days ago offered talks which might soon begin in Moscow to the president of the Estonian legislature, Arnold Ruutel. According to the mayor, these are to deal with the possibilities of independence for Estonia.

Aasmae said the sitution in Lithuania is serious, but on the whole the situation in the Baltics is being "overdramatized" by outsiders. The main contradictions are between the Russian republic and the central government. "The future of the Soviet Union will be decided here." There are rumors in Moscow that Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan intend to form a confederation completely without the involvement of Gorbachev or the central government.

Estonian Presidium Endorses Gorbachev Proposal

LD1801161691 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1530 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] This report is from Tallinn. A proposal presented by USSR President Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, in his meeting with Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, was endorsed at the sitting of the Presidium of the Estonian Supreme Soviet.

Russian Estonians Oppose Treaty With RSFSR

LD1601095891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1635 GMT 15 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn, 15 Jan (TASS)—The Russian-speaking minority in the Estonian legislature voted against ratifying the treaty on the basic principles for interstate relations between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic.

This treaty, which was signed in Moscow by Boris Yeltsin and Arnold Ruutel on 12 January, covers the next 10 years. It was ratified today at a session of the Estonian Supreme Soviet and guarantees citizens of both republics "the right to retain or take citizenship of Russia and Estonia" if they so wish. It also envisages an exchange of representatives between the sides.

According to Estonian legislative Deputy Sergey Petinov the treaty provides no guarantees for the political, civil, or social rights of the republic's Russian-speaking population. In his view this is a direct consequence of the fact that when the Estonian legislature's delegation was being formed to formulate the draft treaty the republic's Supreme Soviet "used its automatic majority to block the demand of the 'Russian party' for the inclusion of its representatives in the delegation."

Officials Cited on Baltic-Russian Events

LD2001181191

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1509 GMT on 20 January carries a seven-minute report by "Mayak Panorama" special correspondent Andrey Trapeznikov from Tallinn.

Trapeznikov reports that hundreds of people gathered at 1300 today in Tallinn City Hall, where a political meeting had been called by the People's Front of Estonia on the topic "Estonia or Russia: Where Will the Tanks Go First?" Trapeznikov doubts the wisdom of holding such a meeting, given that the "political situation in the republic is already so overheated that passions should not be inflamed. This is especially indicated since USSR people's deputies are on the list of speakers. Oleg Kalugin, republican People's Deputies such as Edgar Savisaar, the prime minister of the republic, and Enn Poldroos are included. I frankly think that it is a bit strange that the head of the Estonian Government is taking part in such a meeting, given that just a few days ago he visited military units and spoke to commanders and military men about their press problems. An agreement seems to have been reached that the military will not take part in resolving the situation in the Republic.

"The way the political meeting went, however, indicates that the title of the topic is probably somewhat overdramatized. Oleg Kalugin, who spoke first, said that having witnessed the Soviet Union's involvement in resolving a whole series of military and political situations like the 1968 events in Czechoslovakia, the 1979 revolution in Afghanistan, and the tragic events in our country in Baku, Moldova, Tbilisi, and now the Baltics, he can draw the conclusion that these are all links in the same chain. Kalugin points out that the State Security Committee is taking direct part in the development of these events, and are they directed on the instructions of the party bodies. It is specifically with the help of KGB staff and party workers, according to Kalugin that letters and pleas are being sent to the center requesting the introduction of presidential rule, and that national salvation committees are being established. The USSR People's deputy stressed that what is currently going on in the republic is not a conflict between the Estonian and Russian populations, but a fight between democratic and conservative forces, with the latter striving at all costs to preserve the old administrative command system. The development of events in Russia will depend to a great extent on whether the democrats gain victory in the republic or vice versa."

Trapeznikov says that Estonian Prime Minster Edgar Savisaar "laid the chief blame for the tension created in the Baltics on the Communist Party and on the CPSU's aspiration to hold on to power by all possible means. Savisaar stresses that deterioration of the situation is to be expected in the next few months, given that, as in March there will be a union-wide referendum, increased pressure from the center on the republic's citizens is possible, compelling them to refuse to take part in the

referendum. In Savisaar's view, organized detachments of conservatives may come to the fore."

Citing Moscow Soviet deputy Aleksey Pogorelyy, Trapeznikov says: "The line-up of political forces in Russia differs substantially from that in the Baltic republics, in particular since democrats are in far weaker positions there. Pogorelyy suggests that democratic and conservative forces in Russia could neutralize one another, allowing movements such as Pamyat and individual prominent personalities like Aleksandr Nevzorov to come to power. In Pogorelyy's view, these are fascists."

Trapeznikov was not present for the end of the meeting. He notes that the hall—that can hold 6,000—was full, and the speakers were greeted "with loud and prolonged applause, but the applause was directed to people of quite opposite views."

Trapeznikov adds that the strike is continuing in the republic, but there is no new information. "Two deputies, (Lebedev) and (Peytin), are on a hunger strike at the parliament building. The next session of the Supreme Soviet begins tomorrow and their demands are expected to be examined. The ninth conference of the coordinating center of peoples enslaved by the Soviet Union is to end near Tallinn today. This is the first time I have heard of such a center. Taking part in the conference are representatives of radical democratic parties and movements of Estonia, Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Tatariya, Ukraine and Belorussia, according to today's SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA." He adds that the paper also says Genrykh Borovik of the Soviet Peace Committee is in Estonia to learn about the political situation in the republic.

CP Official Reacts to Troubles in Tallinn

LD2101111691 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian 1000 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Juhan Virkus report]

[Excerpt] The extremely complex situation in the Baltic republics was being assessed today at the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee, at a press conference in the presence of Enn-Arno Sillari, first secretary of the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee, and Harri Roots, Central Committee secretary. Events have indeed taken on an extremely serious character.

[Begin Roots recording] Like in yesterday's PAEVALEHT, [political commentator] Harri Tiido prophetically wrote: Estonia has reached the front line. And it seems that the forces which since December have been organizing blasts in Riga, the forces which succeed in mobilizing both special-task militia squads as well as paratroopers at their will, these forces have started their activities also in Tallinn. At first we thought our press conference would be held to talk about the preparations for the forthcoming 21st Communist Party of Estonia Congress, but inevitably, one also has to pay attention to the kind of atmosphere in which we are advancing toward the congress. [passage omitted] Let us recall the beginning of January. The whole scenario in the Baltics has been operating from 2 January when the Riga press building was occupied, and on the same day [passage indistinct] but a chain of events in Riga had been mainly prepared and the whole...[changes thought] let us say, the first five days of January there was escalation mainly in Latvia. Then a conference of secretaries took place in Riga and, lo and behold, on the following day events unfolded in the neighboring republic of Lithuania instead. Evidently, as a government crisis had developed in Lithuania, it was decided to cast the first blow not in Latvia, as the scenario first envisaged, but in Lithuania instead. And now, with the conference reconvening, a very serious situation has developed in Tallinn, with bomb blasts and so on. [passage omitted] [end recording]

TASS Analyst Views Situation in Estonia

LD1801161591 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS political analyst Albert Balebanov]

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—Deputies of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Sergey Petinov and Vadim Lebedev have suspended their membership in parliament and declared a hunger strike in protest against policies of the Estonian authorities, infringing upon the rights of the national minorities and violating universally recognised human rights.

The desire of Russian-speaking deputies of the Estonian Parliament to secure equality for all nationalities in Estonia is absolutely legitimate. I am convinced that any legal investigation, even at international level, will easily establish that the Estonia authorities have violated human rights and liberties from the very first days they came to power in the spring of 1990. It is not for nothing that the huge protest demonstration in Tallinn on January 15 called for the abolition of republican laws contradicting the federal legislation and the restoration in force of the USSR Constitution.

It is obvious that the policy pursued by the present Estonian authorities sets the indigenous Estonian population at loggerheads with the republic's Russian-speaking inhabitants. Tension in the republics is also caused by social contradictions. Both the Estonian and Russian-speaking population resent the unwarranted price hikes. True, dissatisfaction is less distinct among Estonians, because food products and manufactured goods are distributed among them through special channels. The Russians are practically denied this privelege.

It ought to be noted that Estonians are disturbed today by the Savisaar government's privatisation policy, although this is not said openly. The point is that most enterprises in bourgeois Estonia did not belong to Estonians. They were owned by foreigners and no former proprietor apparently wishes to give up his property.

By violating the rights of the Russian-speaking people, who account for 40 per cent of the republic's population, by violating their cultural and economic interests, the local authorities are creating a climate of intolerance vis-a-vis Russians. This forces them to leave Estonia. It is worth noting that most Russians came there after the war to restore Estonias ravaged national economy, to build priority projects, and then facilities for the 1980 olympic games. And even today they are employed on the most difficult and low paid jobs.

In other words, the policy persued by the Savisaar government relagates the non-Estonian population to 'second class citizenship". Moreover, the Estonian authorities are going out of their way to disrupt existing relations with other republics of the Union and secede from the USSR. The establishment of new power structures, adoption of laws on the economic border, preparations to set up their own army and border guard units and disregard for decrees of the USSR president, show that an absolutely new state is in the making on the territory of Estonia.

Anti-Army sentiments are being fanned up by definite mass media organisations. The authorities are trying to oust servicemen from their private homes and various provocations are being perpetrated against soldiers and officers. All of this alarms the Russian- speaking population of Estonia. Unsure of personal and collective security, it is compelled to set up its own organisations and workers' guard squads. Hence the instability, division and open confrontation we now observe in the republic.

The crisis can be settled only through dialogue and with due account for the interests of all the nationalities inhabitting the republic, by renouncing discrimination for nationalistic or any other reasons and restoring to force the USSR Constitution in Estonia.

IZVESTIYA Reports on Estonia Tensions

PM2001213591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Jan 91 Union Edition p 2

[L. Levitskiy report: "Estonia: Both Strikes and a Hunger Strike"]

[Text] Tallinn—Fifteen large enterprises stopped work at 1200 Moscow time Friday.

The Estonian legislature has never known such a thing. For almost two hours Supreme Soviet deputies, actually representatives of its majority, put questions to V. Lebedev, who had been invited onto the rostrum. Formally this was called a discussion of the statement by Deputies V. Lebedev and S. Petinov, who have declared a hunger strike, and of the draft resolutions proposed by them; namely, sending legislative acts to the United Nations for an expert opinion, creating a mechanism for taking the opinion of the parliamentary majority into account, and rescinding the Tallinn City Soviet Executive Committee's resolution on the distribution of housing.

Julo Nugis, speaker of the legislature, announced at the session: Radio "Nadezhda" has urged workers to enrol in storm trooper detachments and join the last decisive battle.

For several days radio and television have been urging Estonian men to register to rebuff the occupiers at the right time. All life in Estonia is subordinated to preparing for future battles. I will cite a statement by the Tallinn Garrison Command: "Based on its own fabrications about 'a military threat,' the Constituent Defense Council has been created, and the 'Kaitseliit' and 'Kodukaitse' organizations are being put in a state of readiness to rebuff the 'aggressor.' A defense system is being created on the basis of People's Front strong points, and assemblies of reserve servicemen are being held to create self-defense detachments out of them."

Accumulated forces, like accumulated money, do not lie idle for long. Now both sides are acceleratingly gathering forces...

I have no confidence that it will all be confined to a show of strength by "Kaitseliit" and "Kodukaitse," to strikes and hunger strikes. The most dangerous thing is that the dialogue has been interrupted...

RSFSR

Pro-Baltics Demonstration Held in Moscow

LD2001123591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Our correspondents are now at a meeting organized by democratic forces in the center of Moscow. Here is the information we have. People's Deputies Murashov, Gdlyan, Afanasyev, Starovoytova, Stenkevich, and others have already spoken from an improvised rostrum on Manezhnaya Square. The meeting started with a minute of silence, with which people payed tribute to victims of the Vilnius, Tbilisi, and Baku events.

The main reason why people gathered in the square—and according to the official data there were over 200,000 people present at 1400, while in the opinion of the coordination council and the meeting organizers there were approximately 1 million people present—is the fear that the events that have already occurred in Lithuania can go beyond the boundaries of the Baltic republics. Gavriil Popov's and Boris Yeltsin's appeal was read. It does not look as if they are going to deliver speeches themselves. The appeal, in particular, urges people to stay within the framework of the law and avoid extreme outbursts, which can lead to another outbreak of terror.

I would like to believe that this demonstration, as opposed to the previous ones, will make the Union power listen to the opinion of the democratically-minded public. After all, really, the weapons of peaceful citizens are not tanks and bullets, but an ability to

express their will freely and with civic dignity. The meeting continues. More and more columns of people are flowing into the square from the three sides. We will try to prepare a recording of this meeting in the course of the day.

Call for Gorbachev Resignation

PM2001162091 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 91 Union Edition p 6

[F. Ivanov report: "Demonstration in Moscow"]

[Text] A demonstration under the slogan "Today—Lithuania, tomorrow—Russia!" was held in Moscow 20 January following a decision of the Democratic Russia movement's coordinating council.

It is hard to recall a rally on such a mass scale. Tens, if not hundreds of thousands of people marched in columns along Sadovoye Koltso and Kalinin Avenue and filled Manezhnaya Square and the streets and thoroughfares leading to it.

Dozens of national flags fluttered over the square; representatives of many democratic movements from the majority of republics took part in the demonstration. People's deputies of the USSR and the republics, leaders of parties and democratic associations, and cultural and religious figures mounted the rostrum, which, according to what has now become the tradition, was a converted truck. The main slogans at the rally were condemnation of the military intervention in Lithuania, support for democratic forces in that republic and in Russia, and protests against the onslaught of reaction. The speakers demanded that those responsible for the tragedy be made accountable and that the president, the defense minister, the internal affairs minister, and the USSR KGB chairman resign. Those present at the rally honored with a minute's silence the memory of those who died in Vilnius, Baku, and Tbilisi.

Despite the relatively small number of militiamen maintaining order in the streets, the demonstration and rally passed smoothly without incident.

Yeltsin Appeal Read

LD2001134491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report by correspondents Pleg Klimov and Boris Morkovnikov]

[Excerpts] [Morkovnikov] [passage omitted] The historian Yuriy Afanasyev, academician Oleg Bogomolov, and representatives of Lithuania spoke at the rally. This happened while I was there, before I left the rally. I believe the rally is continuing. While I was there an appeal by Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, to the citizens of Russia was also read. In it, it is stated in particular—I will give you a number of excerpts, I will read: The events in the Baltics are threatening to exceed the boundaries of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia.

The danger of dictatorship of which well-known political and public figures in the country have warned has become a reality. The Union leadership by its actions has virtually renounced its previous political course and is openly supporting reactionary forces. Attention to and discussions of common human values in a law-based society and of freedom have distinctly revealed the striving to keep power at any price by the higher party and state bureaucracy and to turn the movement of the country back. Such were the words in this appeal. There are also such words: Do not believe that dictatorship will feed you, will end crime, will bring a feeling of safety and calm to each home and to each family. It is possible that such illusions will actually be realized for a short period of time. The counters will fill with the goods which are being secretly accumulated at present. This has happened before. But, dictatorship will not lead to prosperity and violence can only engender violence. The main thing today is not to permit confrontation to begin in our lives. The citizens of Russia—a call is contained in this appeal—need at this dramatic moment the maximum of endurance and vigilance. There must not be panic or confusion. It is within our power to stop reaction. Boris Morkovnikov, Russia's radio. [passage omitted]

[Klimov] What was the attitude, let us say, toward the president?

[Morkovnikov] Critical. I have already said something about this, I think. Very critical. The president during recent times has shown that he is either not in command of the situation or is not himself directing it.

Resolution Adopted

LD2001141791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1325 GMT 20 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondents Igor Agabekov and Aleksandr Borisov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (TASS)—A rally of many thousands under the slogan "Lithuania Today, Russia Tomorrow," movement, took place on the capital's Manezhnaya Square today. The rally, which according to its organizers had 250,000 to 300,000 participants, was preceded by a demonstration along the Ring Road and Kalinin Prospect.

Deputies from the USSR, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR], and the Moscow Soviet are coming to the rostrum. The rally was opened by Yuriy Afanasyev, USSR people's deputy. The speakers called for the sovereignty of Russia and demanded the resignations of the president, minister of defense, chairman of the KGB, and the USSR minister of internal affairs. The usual collection of "enemies" was increased by new names. Among these were Leonid Kravchenko,

chairman of Gosteleradio, and Aleksandr Nevzorov, the Leningrad television journalist.

USSR People's Deputy Gennadiy Burbulis read out an address to RSFSR citizens by Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. It states that in the last few days the situation in the country has sharply deteriorated. The events in Lithuania are threatening to extend beyond the borders of the Baltic republics. Russia is facing the danger of dictatorship. The statement says that in the USSR "economic reform has been blocked, democracy has been betrayed, and glasnost has been trampled. Voluntarism and lawlessness are being restored."

The participants of the meeting have adopted a resolution which notes in particular that the Democratic Russia movement is taking shape as a political opposition and that it supports the policy of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and Boris Yeltsin aimed at the restoration of Russia, and its return to the path pursued by world civilization. The document demands "immediate withdrawal of punitive troops from the Baltic republics, bringing to book all those guilty of attempting to carry out a state coup in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, including leaders of the Committee of National Salvation, and the dissolution of the Congress of USSR People's Deputies and USSR Supreme Soviet." The resolution calls on "RSFSR residents to ignore the referendum scheduled for 17 March on the issue of a Union treaty."

Those gathered honored with a minute of silence the memory of those who died in Vilnius, Baku, Tbilisi, and other towns of the country. Thanks to the efficient actions of the Moscow militia, which was called to protect public order, there have not been any incidents during the rally.

Leningrad Rally Marks Lithuanian Events

LD2001215191 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report by V. Batalov in Leningrad on 20 January; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Thousands of Leningraders gathered today outside the Young Spectator Theater and then set off along the Fontanka embankment and Nevskiy Prospekt for Palace Square.

A minute of silence was held in memory of those who died in Lithuania. Frail candle flames, which people are protecting from gusts of wind with their hands, are burning. At such moments one's mind goes back to the tragic events of a January day in 1991. The pain in people's hearts will never fade away. Pain could be heard in the words of those who came to Palace Square today. Unfortunately, there were those who forgot the purpose of the meeting, and there was a chain of threats aimed at the USSR Supreme Soviet, at communists, and there were attempts to settle political scores. But calls for wisdom and courage prevailed. Those who went up on the platform stressed that if we are building a democratic state then each people should decide its own fate and that the path to the future lies through observing the rights and freedoms of all peoples.

[Some of the placards seen in the video report read: "No to tanks!," "We are with you, Yeltsin!," "Lithuanian Fatherland—know, Lithuanians, that Leningraders are with you with all their hearts," "Nations, Save Lithuania," "Communists get back," "Hands off Lithuania—Lithuania for the Lithuanians."]

Pro-Lithuania Rally Prohibited in Saratov

LD1901142391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Summary] On Sunday demonstrations in connection with the events in Lithuania are planned in Moscow and many Russian towns.

Valeriy Reikhel, deputy of the Saratov town soviet, reports by telephone that over the last weekend the Democratic Russia movement made the decision at the plenum of the Council of Representatives to stage an all-Russian rally of solidarity with the Lithuanian people, and in support of the position of the Russian leadership in these events, at 1200 on 20 January. "Our deputies put in an application to the city town executive committee for holding this rally, and we received a very interesting reply. The rally has not been permitted by the town executive committee on the basis that the deadlines for putting in applications for holding it, assigned by the decree, have not been complied with. Also because it will not contribute to the consolidation of the town's population under conditions of a tense sociopolitical situation. The stance of the town authorities is on the whole very original, and I would like this stance to be known all over Russia."

Correspondent Zuldat Aminov reports that a rally against the actions by Soviet Army units in Lithuania is already taking place on Liberty Square in Kazan, even though a rally has been planned for Sunday. The rally has been convened on the initiative of all democratic forces of Tatarstan.

Yeltsin Opens Supreme Soviet Session 21 Jan

LD2101132491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Speech by Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, RSFSR, Supreme Soviet, at the opening session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet in the Kremlin in Moscow on 21 January—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed people's deputies: Opening the work of the third session of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet ahead of schedule, I consider it necessary to dwell on a number of issues in the current political process. The course of our

work in the recess between the sessions has had to be seriously correct in connection with a number of events of an extraordinary nature.

The first is that the situation in the Baltic republics has worsened sharply, especially in Lithuania, and last night in Latvia as well. Under the guise of correcting certain errors of the young democracies, the legislatures of the Baltics—especially with regard to the nonindigenous populations—has begun what amounts to the overthrow of the constitutional bodies, which the so-called salvation committees are striving to replace.

In this matter, the Union leadership has adopted a position of support for the anticonstitutional structures; moreover, not only in words, but also in deeds. Formations of the army and formations of the Committee for State Security have been transferred to their practical disposal. This has already happened in the country and the scenario is just the same.

At the very beginning of these events, I personally stated to the president that Russia cannot fail to react to these events. Then the Supreme Soviet Presidium made an official statement. We expressed plainly our assessment of what was happening in the Baltic at the session of the Federation Council under the chairmanship of the country's president. Representatives of almost all the republics unambiguously advocated the resolution of all problems exclusively by political means.

The Federation Council's attention was drawn to the fact that the use of servicemen drafted into the Army from Russia, in order to resolve interethnic conflicts by means of armed force against the civilian population, contradicts the law adopted by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, as indeed it contradicts the decisions of the Second and Third Congresses of USSR People's Deputies. A few hours after the conclusion of the Federation Council meeting, soldiers, most of whom were Russian, were sent into action against the civilian population. This is not just an abandonment of common sense, but also, I think, in some respects, contempt for the attitude expressed by some of the presidents and supreme soviet chairmen of the republics toward this method of solving such issues.

A decision was adopted that same day to travel to the Baltic region. It was necessary to prevent the confrontation from getting out of hand and to prevent major conflicts in which the Russian-speaking population would be one of the participants. Talks were held in Tallinn with the leadership of Latvia and Estonia. A representative of Lithuania also took part. As a result of the talks, a declaration was signed by the supreme soviet chairmen of the four republics. An appeal to servicmen and an appeal to the Russian-speaking population were also adopted in the name of the chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. A bilateral treaty between the republic of Latvia [as heard] and the Russian Federation was signed at the same meeting.

The situation was such that the visit had to be restricted to a few hours. But at night we managed to find time to hold a meeting with Russian-speaking deputies in Estonia, to discuss the problems that worry them, and to express our point of view. This is as follows. There are two approaches to solving the problem of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic republics. First, there is the hard-line approach based on force. This requires that constant pressure be applied on partners, forcing them to comply with various demands. The hardline approach also presupposes the use of economic sanctions and the tactic of ultimatums. Neither does it rule out the use of military force.

But it is extremely ineffective. Life itself has proved that. The policy has led to mutual distrust and suspicion. It is the center's policy of force which is at the root of many discriminatory decisions with respect to the Russian-speaking population. How long has the war of nerves being going on already, pushing people toward extreme decisions and provoking both sides to commit one error after another. And the greater the pressure, the harsher the retaliation. I am convinced that it is not to the advantage of the Russian-speaking population and it greatly harms relations between the nationalities in the entire country. That is extremely harmful to the repuation and prestige of the Soviet Union and casts aspersions on other republics, including the Russian Federation.

We subscribe to another approach, to the approach at the basis of which lie mutual trust and honest dialogue founded upon a stable judicial and legal basis, agreed mechanisms for the solution of these problems, and clear mutual commitments.

I think that our mistake lay in the slowness in concluding treaties with the Baltic republics. The conclusion of agreements has opened up the possibility for improving the situation in a qualitative way. The process of gradual adjustments to legislative acts, social policy, and policy in the sphere of relations between the nationalities has begun already. A special program, a whole set of measures to regulate the problems of the Russian-speaking population is being elaborated in line with protocol. The main thing now is not to wreck the process which has been started. The Supreme Soviet presidium has attentively followed the development of events, not only in the Baltic republics, but also throughout the country, kept in contact with the military, and made telephone contacts with the president and with leaders of the republic.

Some conclusions. The first: The development of events shows that there is a turning-point [povorot] in the political policy of the union leadership. The events in the Baltic are just one manifestation of that turning-point. What is the implication of it? Up until recently, two parallel political policies were followed at the same time. On the one hand, they tried to carry out reforms, acting albeit on some of the issues, on the basis of the principle of a law-governed state. We entered into dialogue with the sovereign republics with difficulty and implemented,

albeit inconsistently, the principle of dialogue. A completely different policy existed alongside this—the policy of defending the old political system, the preservation of its decisive role in the economy, the policy for the preservation of a unitarian union. Both of these policies were carried out simultaneously by the same leadership, by the same leaders. And objectively, it could not bring about positive results. For about six years, we pondered on which to give preference. We hesitated all the time.

There was a lack of decisiveness in choosing the path of reform and the path of renewal and rebirth in the country.

At present, this period seems to be drawing to an end. There is ever greater evidence at hand that there is a tendency to move toward the second variant. This is being accounted for, as a rule, by a deep crisis which has affected all walks of public life. This has led to the assumption that emergency measures are needed.

One can agree with this. Indeed, emergency and extraordinary measures are needed to make is possible for the situation to be properly normalized. The whole question is, what measures? Should they be in the style of the old approach or do they require a new approach? We are convinced that only new approaches are required. After all, the old ones have demonstrated their ineffectiveness many times.

Instead, in the recent past we have been encountering ever more often the words and actions borrowed from the half-forgotten past. There is talk about strengthening order. We are in favor of this. But how? By either using the policy of bans, restrictions, force, and suppression, or by putting into action incentives to get people interested in creating order and to create a situation in which people can benefit, while of course strengthening the mechanisms of responsibility.

The former is being proposed, and this is understandable. And this path, above all, requires the strengthening of the command administrative system and of the directive methods of leadership. It requires the revival of the tradition when orders are not discussed but implemented at any price. That means a step back and a return to the old path. Economic reforms under such conditions are not only doubtful but are simply impossible. So, it will be necessary to give up completely the restructuring of the economy and the idea of economic progress. We are being comforted that this is just temporary, for one or two years. In reality, what is becoming temporary is the insignificant elements of the new type of relations which have succeeded to assert themselves in the economy over recent years.

The second option, on the contrary, requires embarking on the path of reform and setting into motion the powerful levers and self-development of the economy. The effectiveness of this has been demonstrated in all the civilized countries and has brought them to a level which provides people with a decent life.

This has proven to be unacceptable to the reactionary forces in the union leadership who, on the contrary, have set a course for their aggrandizement and restoration of their strength to its previous, and to an even greater level. Today, they are allowed to do what they have not been permitted for a long time. A rejection has been forseen of the principles of democratization, glasnost, and a law-based state, which was proclaimed to the whole world. Proposals to suspend laws which enshrine them are beginning to be heard in the union parliament, and this comes against a background of talk about the need to strengthen order and discipline.

I would put it another way: This will strengthen arbitrary rule, primarily in those spheres where it causes the greatest damage to society. This will strengthen the lack of control of the power structures, which has already brought immeasurable losses to society. This will recreate an enormous zone of silence. Once more attempts are being made to make the command-administrative system untouchable and unaccountable to anyone. Once more an attempt is being made to put it above society. The application of arm-twisting methods is being resurrected with regard to the republics. The tone is becoming ever more categorical and imperious. And there should be no illusions that this approach is selective, that it only applies to certain, to the most disobedient, as it were, republics.

That is the general approach aimed at the reanimation of a unitarian union. There was a run-up to the turning-point toward that frankly reactionary policy. For a long time, for several years, delay at the outset, the limitation of reforms, and the desire to carry them out without offending the interests of the command and administrative system, evoked serious disillusionment in society and gave rise to mistrust in the reform in general. Over the past few years, a serious realignment of forces has been underway in the political system. The total, yet at the same time not completely legitimate, absolute power of the party apparatus, which determined all state, economic, and social structures, is receding into the past. A new system is being formed hastily upon its foundations which are being bolstered.

The USSR president has been invested with practically unlimited powers, and the underpinning of the foundations for presidential rule is taking place. This is reinforced even further by a whole system of center-level bodies. All of this is being done without regard to the process of increased sovereignty for the republics which is taking place in the country. There is a readiness to smash, to destroy everything which does not fit in with such a model, including the organs of authority elected by the people. As the Baltic experience shows, the main reserves for implementing such goals lie, as before, in that same party apparatus. Only its role is changing. Previously it was the authority which carried out the instructions of higher party bodies. The old Stalin soviets were assigned the role of a screen. Now the main figure is changing. The president and his team are now taking a position above the party apparatus, which has been

assigned functions servicing presidential power. The so-called national salvation committees would appear to have been assigned the role of local branches of that power. It is not difficut to realize what place has been assigned to the soviets; as earlier, they are being pushed to the sidelines of political life. Clearly, there can be no question of any kind of democracy in such a system.

No key figure can simply be elected democratically. Any leader who does not suit the system will be wrenched away by it and blocked. Strict subordination to the hierarchy will easily stifle any attempt to influence one body or another. Once again, room is opening up for voluntarism and arbitrariness, for the blossoming of bootlicking and subservience. If we are to speak briefly of the causes, we will return to what has already been applied to the new conditions, through the so-called perestroyka, to the renewal of the totalitarian model.

Those who are fighting for such a system perhaps do not realize that they are rolling the country back to the darkest times of recent history. The formation of such a model has lead to serious confrontation on the part of the republics. Practice has shown already that the center will succeed in achieving success only if the republics are separate [razoboshchenniy]. If the republics can find a common and agreed policy of political behavior, such attempts will be thwarted.

I think that the people's deputies of Russia, the Supreme Soviet, could play a very substantial role here. First, by stepping up to the utmost the work to strengthen the development of interrepublican relations, to coordinate our policy in all spheres. There is a good foundation for this. Treaties have been concluded already with a number of republics. It is necessary to speed up as much as possible the preparations for the signing of a treaty between the four republics which establishes a union of sovereign states.

Second, the stabilization of the internal situation in the republic is our central problem, and first of all, of its economic situation.

A report will be delivered on the subject by the chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Jointly with the government, it will be necessary to find a mechanism for bringing to our side labor collectives in enterprises situated on Russian territory, and for neutralizing possible sanctions instituted by the union government. Perhaps there is a need for a special normative act to regulate the procedure for the transfer of Union enterprises to the subordination of the RSFSR and for ensuring their legal and socio-economic protection. The following elements can be included in it: an enterprise can be considered withdrawn from subordination to a USSR ministry from the moment it is registered as a republican enterprise.

Labor collectives of enterprises should decide independently on their own specific forms of cooperation with the RSFSR Council of Ministers. The administration of an enterprise should not be changed without the consent of the republican authorities. Enterprise accounts should be handed over to an RSFSR bank with guarantees from the Russian Government, irrespective of sanctions by Union bodies.

Perhaps it is worth levying from Russian enterprises a certain proportion of tax on profits in kind—that is, in the form of part of its mainstream output. Perhaps some thought should be given to creating an interrepublican decentralized system of bank accounts.

To ensure Russia's independence in foreign currency and the stabilization of the consumer market, one may have to opt for a limited and regulated sale of rubles to foreign investors. This will enable the ruble's exchange rate to be substantially raised and will ensure the flow of currency into Russia. The republic's monopoly in selling rubles will put obstacles in the way of mafia organizations engaged in the active selling of rubles for foreign currency. And it will become more beneficial for foreign buyers of rubles to conclude official deals via Russian banks since the RSFSR Government will guarantee only appropriate ruble and investment accounts.

The funds in these accounts can be used for the sale of part of unutilized property in the RSFSR, on our own conditions, such as uncompleted construction sites, etc.

Third, one of our most important tasks is to strengthen the system of power in Russia. At this session we have to give special attention to the reinvigoration of ties with local soviets. Earlier today we got together with the leadership of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers and reached an agreement on these questions. It is vitally important to eliminate the existing gap between their various levels, to ensure that there is an efficient exchange of information between them, and to arrange a permanent system of ties betwen the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers, and the soviets of republics, krays, oblasts, and autonomous entities.

I believe that the people's deputies are probably aware of what happened as far as the budget is concerned. Briefly what happened was that the Supreme Soviet's law on the budget system in the RSFSR encountered very serious opposition from the Union Finance Ministry and the Council of Ministers, and also from other Union bodies. Several attempts were made to reach an agreement. Eventually we managed to get a fixed sum—and not just a percentage—amounting to 23.4 billion rubles [R] as stipulated here by the Supreme Soviet in its law, and accepted as our contribution to the Union budget, instead of the R70 billion which was normally contributed.

The events in the Baltic republics have created yet another problem. It became clear that the sovereignty of Russia, with its population of 150 million people, had to be placed on a firmer foundation.

It is inadmissible that Russia and other republics should be wholly sidelined from control of the activities of the Army and that the latter should be turned into the tool of

a few top leaders. I am convinced that we will be able collectively, in our Supreme Soviet, to work out our position on this issue.

Fourth, strengthening links with the electorate must be an important line of the work of this session. Practice has demonstrated that these links are extremely defective; people are badly informed about our work and about the decisions adopted; and the media sometimes crudely distorts what goes on here in the Supreme Soviet. We must make use of all the opportunities to frustrate the next planned information blockade which is taking shape around the Russian bodies of power.

Fifth, I consider that committees and the Supreme Soviet should put their relations with Russian parties and public movements on a proper footing. Political disconnectedness, especially of those movements whose positions are close or similar, is inadmissable today. In the Supreme Soviet here, we have already developed the technology for seeking compromise; it is extremely important to extend this to mutual relations between the political organizations of Russia in order to work out commonly agreed political positions. The deputies can do a great deal in this respect.

Sixth, drawing up a precise political line on mutual relations between Russia and the center under the new conditions will be a special direction of the work of the session ahead. Our main task in this issue is to arrest and stop the union leadership's slide toward reaction. We must in no case permit the center to depart from accords which have already been reached; we must not allow coercive methods of solving problems to enter everyday practice.

The tactics of dialogue have not yet been exhausted, of course. It is essential to convince the central leadership by both word and deed that it is today no longer possible to line the country up into one column and fetter it with chains. Life itself will compel the top leaders to understand this. Thousands of telegrams, political actions and undertakings, meetings of many thousands of people indicate the support for the Russian Supreme Soviet, and we must come out as the guarantor of democracy. Russia must take the most active possible part in the work of the Union bodies, above all in the Federation council and in the formation of new union structures. We must strive to ensure that Russia's representatives to the center fundamentally and consistently defend the interests of the people of our republic, and the policy of reform.

We are ready, immediately, to coordinate Union and republican laws in order to remove the existing legal obstacles so that we can move the reforms further. It is necessary to further the work that has already begun in separating union and republican property. However, despite the president's promises, this work is being blocked in all ways. We are ready to work with the Union leadership on all these issues. At the same time, every step in the direction of reaction, every step outside the previously achieved agreements, should be severely critized by us and publicized.

I think the reactionary turn at the present moment has not reached the point of no return. I am convinced that this strategic political mistake can be and must be corrected. But this also depends on us to a great extent, dear people's deputies. The most incorrect thing to do in the present critical situation is to become depressed and to panic. We should not underestimate ourselves.

Yes, we are in a critical situation but it is not a hopeless one. There are chances, and quite a few, to turn the unfavorable sequence of events for the better. Our voters are in favor of this; all our people's deputies are in favor of this. And if we use our will and act resolutely and consistently, there will, by all means, be a turn for the better. Thank you.

Opening Session Detailed

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[Editorial report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1630 GMT on 21 January carries a recording of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 21 January.

Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, takes the floor to make a 24-minute opening address.

The chairman of the session says Yeltsin is now looking at written notes and questions. Deputy Yeryumin from Izhevsk asks that deputies be given Yeltsin's speech in written form, and asks Yeltsin to comment on the situation in the Council of the Federation—is it a body which acts in an advisory capacity to the president or is it an executive body? Another question concerns the RSFSR budget figures.

Yeltsin replies that the RSFSR budget was passed by the Supreme Soviet. He says he had a three-hour meeting with the president on this. Finally, he says, the economic agreement was signed—all the figures that had been announced will not be changed. RSFSR banks will be tasked with making the money available to the Union budget, he adds. As for the Council of the Federation, its role has not yet been clearly determined and this will have to be examined.

At 1703 GMT Deputy Salnikov from Ryazan Oblast asks about Yeltsin's appeal to Russian soldiers—was it not an error on Yeltsin's part, he asks?

Yeltsin replies: "Unfortunately, the mass media did not print my appeal to servicemen [after the 13 January events in Vilnius], apart from an RSFSR newspaper. This appeal was quite balanced, it could even be taken and printed and conveyed to people's deputies, so that it is clear: There were no appeals not to carry out orders, and so on and so on. I was simply carrying out the will, also, of the session of the Supreme Soviet which last October adopted a law that if there is a call-up on the territory of the Russian Federation, then it does not have

the right to use servicemen outside the republic against the peaceful population—that is, in interethnic conflicts of some kind—and to use weapons against the civilian population. I have given an appropriate reminder of this law. And not just that: I think that in accordance with this law the Supreme Soviet should probably instruct the RSFSR procurator to bring suit against Defense Minister Yazov for failing to carry out RSFSR laws."

At 1707 GMT Deputy Konstantinov from Leningrad says that on 17 March there will be a referendum on the future of the USSR. A new campaign of attacks on republican and especially Russian sovereignty will in all probability get underway. He asks Yeltsin: Don't you think we should define our position with regard to the referendum? Yes, without a doubt, says Yeltsin.

Deputy Kuznetsov asks: How long can we tolerate illegal party structures? They are pushing the country into the abyss and fratricidal war? Why do you compromise?

Yeltsin replies that there is no need to accuse him of compromising. We must search for some sort of dialogue, consensus decisions, he says. We have a decision on the procedure for registering all parties and this must be observed. The questioner says some local leaders combine two functions and this must be dealt with.

At 1711 GMT an unidentified deputy asks: Do you recognize the USSR Constitution and constitutional methods of solving disputes? Yeltsin replies that today's session is not an examination session.

Deputy Papayev asks what is more important: political struggle or economic issues? What should we emphasize? And as for the Union treaty, don't you think that this is the most important problem? Yeltsin replies that politics and national economy are one and the same thing, they are intertwined. "As for the Union treaty", he goes on, "I think that by its latest actions the center has greatly undermined confidence in a Union treaty." We cannot be satisfied with the draft Union treaty that has been published, he adds.

Deputy Baburin from Omsk says he is surprised that the Presidium adopted a decision on the registration of political parties. We must have a law on political parties, he says. He is concerned at the situation inside the RSFSR with respect not only toward the Union but with respect to the republics and krays of Russia. Yeltsin reminds the speaker that there will be a conference on this subject tomorrow and that the Supreme Soviet will be informed of its outcome.

At 1719 GMT the chairman of the Committee on Legislation speaks and clarifies that deputies who combine party and Soviet duties may indeed be released from their Soviet duties under standing orders concerning violation of the constitution.

An unidentified deputy speaks in support of Yeltsin and goes on to speak of the need to uphold the law. Deputies are concerned that laws fail to be observed in the provinces, he says.

Deputy Rumyantsev says he is grateful to Yeltsin for being resolute. He criticizes the national salvation committees in the Baltic republics and asks if there should be a parliamentary investigation of this anticonstitutional activity of the RSFSR Communist Party. Yeltsin replies that first we must have a law on political parties—any investigation not based on the law may itself be unlawful.

Another deputy criticizes the center's methods of force. How can we defend ourselves, he asks? We must adopt the necessary measures, he adds. Yeltsin says that a committee is being set up but we have no chairman yet. Deputy Volkogonov could be released from the Armed Forces and could become our security adviser, Yeltsin says. He could then be in charge of setting up the Russian security structures. As for the security committee, Yeltsin goes on, Kryuchkov has confirmed that all KGB structures can be put at the disposal of the republic, but we must have a committee to supervise their work.

At 1728 GMT Yeltsin replies to written questions. Contacts between republics must be based on agreements based on international law, he says. Is it possible that there will be Russian refugees from the Baltics? Is Russia ready to accept them? Talks must be started immediately, he states, and only a dialogue can save the situation. Then there will be no refugees. But if events unfold like today in Riga, the situation will be grave, Yeltsin notes. Can borders between the Baltics and Russia be changed? Yeltsin says this has never been broached. He is personally against revising existing borders, but situations like that may arise. All ethnic questions must be resolved via dialogue, Yeltsin says. He goes on to recall his speech: Calls to set up national salvation committees may mean that another, harsher structure is being set up than was the case before 1985. As for financing enterprises from the Union budget, Yeltsin says, enterprises should be subordinate to Russia. Russia can afford the R32 billion needed for the upkeep of the army, he says, going on to discuss other budget issues. Yeltsin says that agreements with other republics do take into account the wishes of the local population most immediately affected.

How does Russia's population react to ever increasing prices, Yeltsin reads? It is the fault of the Union, he replies, it decided to increase wholesale prices and this entailed other increases. If the price of cotton from Uzbekistan goes up by six or seven times, our situation will get worse, he says. We do not yet have an agreement with Uzbekistan but we do have agreements with the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan, from where we get bread grain, for instance. Yeltsin says he cannot answer detailed questions without first visiting the area in question, replying to a question about the setting up of the Ingush Republic.

At this point in the recording the session chairman announces a recess.

The session resumes. Deputy Lyubimov says our reporters are in the Baltic republics. He criticizes the reporting restrictions in force. He does sympathize with the position of Russians there and admits that Baltic governments may have made mistakes, but objective information is essential to have a clear picture of what is going on. He criticizes the "600 Seconds" program which misinformed viewers. As for the Riga events, these remind one of the Vilnius events, he says—deliberately prepared at an earlier stage as a provocation.

At 1748 GMT Deputy Stepanov says that on 15 January, the Democratic Russia movement called for a strike in Biysk to demand Gorbachev's resignation and to support the miners, but no one took part in the strike. He expresses sympathy for people in the Baltic republics and opines that the Democratic Russia bloc should not call for strikes, but rather should seek consensus, one that is possible between communists and democrats.

Deputy Tarasov says he supports Yeltsin and his actions. Our leader went to trouble spots, unlike Gorbachev, he says. Solutions must be in accordance with the Constitution, he states, and goes on to warn against media misinformation campaigns.

At 1755 GMT Deputy Lugovoy says his Kaliningrad Oblast constituents were appalled at what has taken place in Lithuania. Armed force was used against civilians, he says, and an investigation should reveal who gave the order to fire. The situation must be resolved politically and peacefully, but the Lithuanian leadership's policy is also to blame. He says that the rights of Russians were indeed encroached on. There can be no state without security forces, army, banking system, and other institutions. He describes a visit to Yaroslavl, where he was asked to convey the message that they support Yeltsin's proposals.

Deputy Gureyevich says many people are ill-informed about what is going on. On Saturday, a group of Russian deputies returned from Norway where they studied post-war denationalization and met Norway's foreign minister. The week has brought big changes in attitudes to the Latvian problem; credit will no longer be given to the president.

At 1810 GMT Deputy Ikonnik says the use of the army in Latvia is the main question. It must not happen again elsewhere. Problems must be solved constitutionally, he says. He is against "illegal" salvation committees but says we must have our own army and security forces. He goes on to criticize the media and says the population must be protected and the status of Soviet troops must be clarified.

The chairman complains all speakers are exceeding their time limit.

Deputy Abayev says that for objectivity, all sides must be heard.

Deputy Zakharov says the time has come to name the guilty men: Gorbachev is directly responsible. Party structures are also to blame, he says to applause from the floor.

Deputy Yudin says Yanayev aroused indignation for his impoliteness to Khazulayev. Two nations are confronting each other and communists are being persecuted. Albania must not happen here, he warns.

At 1820 GMT Deputy Malostvol says the Lithuania events boil down to a conflict between the military and the people. He praises Gorbachev but says he cannot understand why the letter urges the army to act while denying giving it orders. He says he has been misled.

Deputy Bashalashvili complains that it has been a terrible week. Life has become totally mindless, he says, and television has much to answer for. He goes on to criticize Deputy Kravchenko and Deputy Gubenko for his silence. Blood has been shed for inhuman reasons, he claims, and democracy is being threatened. The Supreme Soviet must oppose disinformation. The chairman interjects to ask for a minute in which to consult. Bashalashvili goes on to praise Yeltsin and says treaties must be signed with republics as soon as possible, and a new constitution approved. There is no turning back, he says. There must be no dictatorship!

Deputy Kastoyev recalls Hitler's reproach to Poland. He cites the Czech and Hungarian parallels and claims the Afghanistan excuse was an imperial plot. The victims in Latvia were all unarmed and the soldiers are not to blame, but those who sent them there. It is wrong to discredit the army, who are our sons, he says. He goes on to recall the origin of conflict, and thanks Yeltsin for going to troubled areas. Provocations must be renounced, he states, and Gorbachev has fallen under the influence of a hopeless situation and is doing things that discredit him.

Deputy Afanasyev says he represents Democratic Russia, and recalls its recent plenum. The meetings held in Moscow and elsewhere yesterday resolved to support the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. He proposes that the Supreme Soviet could influence Baltic events. The Supreme Soviet can and must be the guarantor of Russia's renewal and must initiate new relations between Russia and the Union before there is more bloodshed, he says. Condolences should be sent to Latvian families, he says, and the military industry and the Army must be reformed. War has been declared against all republics, including Russia, he claims.

At 1841 GMT Deputy Alayev says the call for servicemen in the Baltics to refuse orders was wrong. Yeltsin clearly stated his attitude regarding the creation of a Russian Army, he says, adding that he is against this.

Deputy Beloglazov says most speakers have been vague and emotional. The Army should not be used in such conflicts. When democratic movements turn nationalistic, bloodshed follows, he claims. The Army must belong to the Union and must not fall apart.

Deputy Kopeyko says the Maritime Kray deputies have condemned the Lithuania action. Glasnost and foreign policy have been succesful, but are now threatened, he says. Lithuanian television has been attacked, and the use of tanks was unjustified. Press law is so far intact, thank goodness but central television, headed by Kravchenko, needs to be supervised.

Deputy Baburin says we do not know what is happening in various parts of the country, or even in our own Supreme Soviet. He recalls Yeltsin's trip to the Baltic and says Yeltsin's appeal for help to the United Nations was humiliating. Immediate work is needed on Union treaty and the partnership must be equal. Russia cannot feed everyone any longer, he says, and goes on to condemn the plan to move Russian-speaking populations. Only a national reconciliation government can save us, he concludes.

A deputy gives information on the progress of talks with Lithuania. They have slowed down, but there is a desire to continue them. He notes that a Kaliningrad delegation has had talks with Lithuania.

At 1900 GMT the chairman asks deputies if they wish to continue the debate on the results of the congress and implementation of its resolutions. The deputies vote to continue the debate for the rest of today.

Deputy Yushenkov takes the floor. He blames the CPSU leadership for the recent bloodshed, and supports the idea of creating republican armed forces.

Deputy Voronin introduces himself as a communist and says that if comments of this kind continue then he will be forced to leave the Supreme Soviet. Another deputy supports him.

Deputy Chelnyakov talks about the president's new team. He cites Kravchenko who has announced that he occupies his post in order to carry out Gorbachev's will. Pavlov is also presiding over the collapse of the financial situation. The deputy has already called for the president's resignation before, but then it was not considered. He now calls for the resignation of Gorbachev and his government.

Deputy Vyatkin says that the situation in the Baltics is regrettable, but the Supreme Soviet should be concerned with the economic situation. He quotes particular examples of economic failure which he himself has witnessed and says people are waiting for the Supreme Soviet to tackle these issues. He proposes that the Supreme Soviet should state how it plans to deal with the economic problems facing the country.

Deputy Andropov refers to the rise in prices triggering the crisis in Lithuania. He calls on the government of the country and the republic to take measures to improve the economic situation. He accuses certain political groups in Lithuania of using the difficult situation there to further their own political ends. He opposes the use of armed forces to resolve political problems, particularly when the army is used against its own people. To avoid the situation in Lithuania being repeated in Russia, he says the president should be elected by the people. He calls for Poloskov and his comrades to be allowed to speak to stop this behind-the-scenes plotting and activity.

At 1920 GMT Deputy Stepashin says that it is difficult for him to speak because he is a professional soldier, but he denies that the Army is responsible for what is happening. He says that in the past the presence of the Army has helped to avert bloodshed. The Supreme Soviet should confirm its responsibility for all Russian citizens wherever they may be. They should also do everything possible to support the Army.

The chairman says that 20 people have spoken, and the issues discussed need to be resolved before the end of the day, so he asks for a vote on who should be heard now. He wants official representatives from the Baltic republics to speak. An unidentified speaker says that Yeltsin has promised that Alksnis can speak again and calls for a vote on the order.

Deputy Chaykovskiy calls for objectivity, and asks for a vote on the proposal that three representatives from each side should be heard. The chairman asks for the names of those who wish to speak.

Another deputy calls for a vote on the chairman's proposal. As no agreement can be reached on the issue of who should speak on behalf of the Baltic republics, then no one will speak. Another deputy calls for the session to be extended.

At 1934 GMT General Tarasov asks to speak as he feels that the speakers have been unjust to the Army. The chairman rejects this criticism and again calls for a vote on who is to speak. He proposes limiting the speakers to three representatives of the committees, two representatives of the government, and then representatives of the Baltic republics. This proposal is rejected.

A deputy calls for Markovskiy from the Estonian delegation to speak, but the chairman says that this is not possible. Deputy Baburin then takes the floor and urges that speakers should be heard according to the list and then, periodically, representatives who do not automatically have the right to go on the list should be heard in order to carry out the task of discussing this issue.

Deputy Isaakov takes the floor. He asks whether the events in Lithuania could occur in Russia itself. The answer is yet, he says, and blames the law on private property and other resolutions of the Supreme Soviet for the situation. The people are not ready for this, he claims. The renewal of Russia is the only thing which united deputies at the first session, and continues to

unite them. The authority of the Russian legislature will be lost if the law on prices is also carried out without sufficient preparation. He demands another minute to finish his speech and criticizes lack of respect for the law.

Deputy Kachanov takes the floor asks that General Tarasov be heard instead of himself. The deputies are asked whether this can be allowed. The deputies revert to an argument about the vote which has just taken place.

At 1949 Deputy Tarasov is allowed to speak. He comments on the hatred he can feel in the hall, and says that even the chairman has shown disrespect to him. The chairman interjects to deny this. Looking at the causes of the Lithuanian crisis he says, the actions of separatists are responsible. The leadership of Russia has failed to help the Russians there. Yeltsin's proposal should under no circumstances be adopted. There is a need to look for a middle way to avoid war. All military people suffer in light of what is happening in the country.

Deputy Kovalev asks how the Presidium works. He calls for only official people to be allowed to speak.

Deputy Lyubimov asks why the center works so badly and allows bloodshed. He asks who is in the Salvation Committee, and what it represents then goes on to ask what the Army is doing in this and other areas where there is trouble. The Army carries out orders, he says, and the political leadershp is behind these orders. The political situation in the country is very serious, and civil war is imminent. He asks why there is so little information and speculates as to the attitude of other countries and the other republics to the events.

Deputy Alksnis interrupts and the chairman reprimands him, saying that he will be allowed to speak, and he calls upon the deputies to reach some sort of agreement.

At 2001 GMT a deputy calls for a vote on whether proceedings should be broadcast or not. There has already been a vote on this, he says, but we now want to confirm that we are in favor of this. This proposal is adopted. A deputy calls for five Baltic representatives to be admitted.

A deputy questions the need for allowing deputies from another parliament to speak in this forum. Deputy Kustsko queries his absence from the list of speakers, and the chairman reprimands him for wasting time with such a observation.

An unidentified deputy takes the floor. He claims that political motives are behind the deputies being called a week early. He denies that meetings were held with the electorate prior to the visit to Lithuania. Many telegrams have been received asking who authorized the appeal which was sent to the United Nations. He asks whether the Supreme Soviet has ceased to worry about its own people in other republics. He again raises the economic issue and asks whether the Supreme Soviet is in control of the situation as regards prices. He calls for Yeltsin to appear on television to tell people what is in store for them as they are concerned about prices. This deputy is reprimanded by the chairman for going over the allowed time.

Deputy Samarin takes the floor. He refers to the speeches by Tarasov and Isaakov who said that Yeltsin is opposed to the Union, and refutes this. Gorbachev is responsible for what has happened in the Baltics, he says. He warns that committees of national salvation could be founded in Russia at any time. Political strikes in other republics are praised, he says, but the tone changes when a political strike is declared in the Kuzbass. They are accused of breaking up the Union. He proposes that the Supreme Soviet should do everything possible to stop the formation of salvation committees in Russia.

At 2019 GMT Deputy Alksnis takes the floor with the agreement of the house. He begins by talking about the Latvian radio report and refers to the shooting and the alleged gang rape of the wife of one of the Black Berets. He gives an account of events connected with these incidents. He also gives his version of the attack on the Latvian Internal Ministry in Riga and says it looked like a large-scale provocation.

Deputy Khasbulatov reads a statement by the Equal Rights group on their return to the legislature. A Latvian deputy speaks about the Equal Rights group.

Deputy Podnieks says that the National Salvation Committee is a an anticonstitutional junta. TASS spreads its messages all over the country. Armed detachments are, in fact, acting as terrorists with official backing. He cites facts of violence committee by the Black Berets staff. He concludes by raising procedural matters and proposes to end discussion.

Deputy Rutskoy calls on deputies to be constructive and sensible. We Russians, he says, must put a stop to bloodshed. Our president seems to be inefficient and is putting the blame on the Army and on democratic forces. Gorbachev's accusations against Yeltsin have nothing to do with reality, he says. The actions in Lithuania are another slap in the Russian people's face. The truth is being hidden from the people and the "Vremya" program is a pack of lies. The official version is a smoke sceen, he claims, they are looking for a scapegoat. How many times will we be turning a blind eye to injustice?

A deputy criticizes Kravchenko, head of television and radio, for his unseemly activities. He should be made accountable, the deputy says.

At 2045 GMT Khasbulatov closes the discussion. Deputy Shakhray comments on the draft resolution that has been circulated among deputies. We all understand at what level the use of Armed Forces in Lithuania was taken, he says, noting that both the president and the defense minister plead ignorance. It appears that their functions have been taken by other people, like the garrison commander, he claims. Illegal bodies have been

set up there. Russia is not immune from such developments, he says, so the draft includes some measures to prevent illegal activities such as setting up national salvation committees.

At 2052 GMT there are questions to Shakhray. A deputy makes remarks regarding the resolution's title. More questions and amendments from deputies follow.

Ar 2104 GMT Khasbulatov puts the draft resolution as a whole to a roll-call vote. It is not adopted. Procedural matters are discussed briefly: Some deputies do not have cards for electronic voting and this is causing problems.

At 2113 GMT Khasbulatov proposes to vote again on the issue, taking new votes into account.

At 2119 GMT voting takes place on adopting the draft resolution as a basis. It is not adopted. Khasbulatov proposes to amend the draft and return to it on Thursday, after studying proposals. He says that tomorrow deputies are to work in committes and commissions.

The recording of the session ends.

Legislative Committees Meet 22 January

LD2201113791 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] The Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet will continue its work today. Deputies will work in committees and commissions. A number of draft laws linked with improving economic, social, and legal aspects of Russia's life are included in thea session's agenda. A meeting of local soviet leaders of the RSFSR is also to take place today.

Deputy on Baltics, USSR Armed Forces

LD2101133891 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Interview with (Sergey Mostovets), Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet Deputy and member of the Supreme Soviet Committee on the Mass Media, to correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy at the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 21 January—recorded]

[Text] [Ruvinskiy] Can you tell us your reactions from your visit to the Baltics and to the discussion of this question today here at the Supreme Soviet?

[(Mostovets)] I wish immediately to note [passage indistinct] what happened in, let's say, Lithuania, and last night in Latvia. What is going on? The very same scenario. Some kind of group of bandits, which somehow got to Lithuania, then mixed with a group of paratroopers, soldiers, and descended on civilian establishments, the extremely important ones—the Television-Radio Committee, the television tower, the printing house. Then this group, having carried out its bloody business, disappeared from Lithuania. The paratroopers were then replaced by Internal Ministry troops.

Yesterday, we tried to make contact at three of these establishments, as Russian deputies with Russian soldiers, with Russian officers. Apart from having the barrels of submachineguns thrust in our stomachs and chests, we got nowhere. However, when we went to the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet building, it only took us a few minutes to get in.

The unity of the Lithuanian people really shakes you. But not only Lithuanian: We had many meetings with Russians, Poles, Belorussians. All are united in this sense, and that unification around their legally elected authorities has already been shown by the approaches, that is the external approaches, to the Lithuanian legislature. The external situation there also shakes you. All windows and all passages (?have been blocked by) [word indistinct]. Arms have been gathered—nothing very serious—hunting guns, small caliber rifles, and so forth.

[Ruvinskiy] Well, what do you think, (Sergey), is there still a need to defend the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet building like this?

[(Mostovets)] Only this attitude—and I am profoundly convinced of this, and we examined our position with various factors—prevented the storming of parliament by those forces which were sent to Lithuania. I think that it is unlikely that they will dare, nevertheless, to resort to this, because I saw the eyes of those people defending the building, I spoke with them, from the smallest to the biggest; they will die for their legislature, they will die for their freedom. This must be understood by those who still have thoughts about storming and seizing power. This is a matter of utter principle. All this must not be repeated anywhere, whereby a self-proclaimed committee—which must be arrested immediately—not only calls for the overthrow of a legally elected state system, but, with the help of soldiers who for some reason did not touch this committee and who are subordinate to someone anonymous, carry out his will. I draw attention to this in particular, because attempts have been made to create similar committees in Russia.

[Ruvinskiy] Do you have the impression that the Armed Forces stopped following the command of our Armed Forces commander in chief?

[(Mostovets)] No, because the Armed Forces commander in chief, the president, is also the CPSU general secretary. And since practically all committees of national salvation have been formed on the basis of the central committees of the republics' Communist Parties, so in the present case the Armed Forces are carrying out the will of the general secretary.

[Ruvinskiy] Thank you.

Deputy Condemns Yeltsin Proposal on Army

LD2201105691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0930 GMT 22 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (TASS)—Calls by Boris Yeltsin, chairman of the Russian legislature, to servicemen of Russian nationality that they should not submit to the orders of the command, and his statement about the possibility of Russia setting up its own army open up the way towards "large-scale civil war," Nikolay Petrushenko, USSR people's deputy, has stated. On the pages of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper today, he condemned ROSSIYA, the weekly of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium, which, Petrushenko maintains, distorted an interview given by him to this publication.

The USSR people's deputy criticized Boris Yeltsin's position with regard to the Russian-speaking population living in the Union republics. At the same time, as in the Baltics, "Russians are being subjected to real racial discrimination with the leaders of the Russian legislature concluding agreements with Baltic nationalists," Petrushenko maintains. He called on Russian deputies "to halt the dangerous ventures' by the chairman of the Russian legislature.

Tiraspol Work Collectives Condemn Yeltsin

LD1801235491 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] TASS reports that the position of Boris Yeltsin, the chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, is helping the disintegration of the USSR.

This was stated by Tiraspol work collectives in a collective appeal sent to the USSR Supreme Soviet and to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. It was published today in DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA. We fully agree, the appeal emphasizes, with the appraisals and conclusions contained in the speech by the USSR president at the session of the USSR Supreme Soviet over the events in Lithuania. We consider that the exacerbation of the sociopolitical situation both in the Baltic republics and in the Moldova Soviet Socialist Republic is occurring for the same reasons—namely, nationalism and anti-Sovietism.

No Support for Strike Call in Kuzbass

LD1801141491 Moscow TASS in English 1307 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo January 18 TASS—The Kuzbass council of workers' committees declared a political strike, which was to begin today and last for an unspecified amount of time. However, the strike was not supported by any of the work collectives in this Siberian industrial territory.

The normal operation of enterprises today will save more than one million roubles in the budget of Kemerovo region (Western Siberia).

The work collectives of mines and quarries focused on offsetting shortfalls that have developed since the beginning of the year in the delivery of coal to various branches of industry in Siberia, Urals, and European regions of the country. Steelworkers, chemical and transport industry workers did not react to the strike call.

The working class is indignant at the fact that the Kuzbass council of workers' committees operates in isolation from primary organisations and that calls for a strike in favour of demands foisted from higher authorities.

Caucasus

'Terrorists' Kill Officer in South Ossetia

LD1801132791 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow January 18 TASS—One militia officer killed and two wounded is the result of another tragic event in Tskhinvali, the administrative centre of the South-Ossetian Autonomous Region. TASS learnt at the Soviet Interior Ministry press centre that a car with officers of the Georgian Interior Ministry, driving out of the city, was blasted off on Thursday [17 January] at about 18:00.

Investigators have not determined as yet what explosive device was used by terrorists to commit this crime.

2 Georgian Policemen Killed in Ossetia 19 Jan

LD2101152191 Moscow TASS in English 1428 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Tbilisi January 21 TASS—Two Georgian police officers were killed in street battles in the South Ossetian city of Tskhinvali on Saturday night [19 January].

Shooting raged for an hour and a half on Sunday in the city, a Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman reported from the city. One wounded person was taken to hospital.

A group of Soviet people's deputies arranged a meeting of Georgian parliamentarians and Interior Ministry leaders with Ossetian representatives. The sides agreed that the state of emergency in the area will be upheld by Soviet interior troops and Georgian and Ossetian police.

No single shot had been fired in Tskhinvali from 02:00 to noon on Monday, reports said.

Gamsakhurdia Urges Vote Against Autonomy

[Editorial Report] Tbilisi Domestic Service in Georgian at 0500 GMT on 18 January carries an approximately four-minute recorded address by Konstantin Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia, to a mass meeting in Tbilisi, which took place outside the government building on 17 January.

In his address Gamsakhurdia blames enemies of the Georgian nation for aggravating the situation in Samachablo (South Ossetia), who, he says, will have to answer for this. He goes on to say that the Georgian people "do not need any kind of promise from Gorbachev" and that "the whole of Georgia and all understanding Ossetian citizens oppose this thinking," a statement that is greeted with loud applause. He calls on those Ossetians who wish to live harmoniously with Georgian people on Georgian territory to vote against South Ossetian autonomy.

Georgian Leader Supports Baltic Republics

LD1801220191 Kaunas Radio Kaunas in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Letter from Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Georgian Supreme Soviet chairman, to the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The people of Georgia are deeply indignant about the misinformation and anti-Lithuanian propaganda carried by central mass media. These acts, barbaric and senseless in their cruelty, are already well known. They were carried out by the Soviet Army, together with the interior forces in Tbilisi, in April 1989. The citizens of the Republic of Georgia, therefore cannot be misled by this misinformation. In support of the Lithuanian people, I have forwarded a letter to the UN secretary general expressing the wishes of all the people of Georgia.

I have the honor to report that we all support the views and stance stated in the address of the Baltic Republics Supreme Council chairmen and the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman on 13 January 1991. Proceeding from this, I request your permission to consider myself as one the signataries in this important document.

Nishanov Visits Georgia, Meets With Officials

LD1801113991 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Nishanov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the chairman of the commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet in the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] had meetings and talks with Gamsakhurdia, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Georgia, and other leaders of the republic and, also, with representatives of the public of South Ossetia today during their stay in the Georgian SSR today.

A wide range of issues regarding stabilizing the situation in South Ossetia and Tskhinvali were thoroughly discussed at the Supreme Soviet of Georgia.

Various proposals and several measures that could help put an end to the conflict, normalize the situation in South Ossetia, and restore the friendly relations that were broken off between the fraternal peoples, were discused.

To provide help with tackling these complex problems, a commission of the USSR Supreme Soviet, consisting of the country's People's Deputies Shekhovtsov, Gorshkov, and Nimbuyev, will visit.

During Nishanov's stay in Georgia, numerous meetings also took place with the local population—Georgians, Ossetians, and representatives of other nationalities.

Gorbachev Sends Message to Azerbaijani People

LD1901105991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (TASS)—In connection with the January anniversary of the tragic events that took place in Azerbaijan a year ago, USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev sent a telegram to the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and to all working people in the republic in which he expressed profound and sincere sympathy with the families of those who died and suffered.

"All those who died at that time, irrespective of their nationality, are citizens of one country. At this bitter hour I want to stress my respect for the ancient land of Azerbaijan, a region of hard-working and creative people," the telegram says.

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed the wish that "peace and well-being may forever settle under the roof of each home and help jointly overcome the ordeals that have befallen us."

Assassination Attempt Made on NKAO General

LD1901140591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1208 GMT 19 Jan 91

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert, 19 Jan (TASS)—Today in the oblast center of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), an attempt was made to assassinate Maj-Gen. Vladimir Kovalev, chief of the oblast's Interior Directorate. As Kovalev informed the TASS correspondent, at 0940 he was driving a "Niva" car as it was overtaken by a UAZ truck.

When the truck was about 15-20 meters in front, its back doors suddenly flew open and two men in military

uniforms opened machinegun fire. The general, who was behind the steering wheel, had enough time to react. He bent down and then jumped out of the car which was subsequently sprayed with bullets. Miraculously, Maj-Gen. Kovalev was not hurt. The people from the same truck also opened fire on a 'Zhiguli,' and Maretta Ayrapetyan, a Stepanakert resident, was wounded.

"Despite the fact that the assassination attempt was carried out in the manner of the Italian mafia and was very quick, it was throughly planned," Vladimir Kovalev said. The criminals also calculated my daily route to my place of work. I believe that the purpose of the attempt was to escalate tension in the region."

The commandant's office coordinating the state of emergency in the area was instructed to strengthen the security check system on the roads leading out of Stepanakert. An intensive search for the criminals in military uniforms is being conducted. The local law enforcement bodies are carrying out an investigation into the assassination attempt.

Azerbaijan Leader Sends Message to Lithuania

LD1901113191 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0202 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, has sent a telegram to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian Republic. The telegram says:

We meet the tragic events that have taken place in Lithuania with profound agitation and heartache. The people of Azerbaijan, who experienced the tragic black January of 1990, understand and share the suffering of the Lithuanian people. On behalf of workers and the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan and the government of the republic, I extend with profound grievance my condolences to relatives and close friends of those who have lost their lives, and wish peace and security to all Lithuanian people. Especially at (?a time) when losses are increasing, and tears not drying up, it is difficult to make a full assessment of the events that have taken place. We profoundly believe that people's understanding, healthy thinking, and benevolence will help to leave these sad days behind with dignity.

Armenians in NKAO Rayon Face Deportation

LD1801232591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] In the last few days the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] has once again deteriorated, with protest meetings being held throughout Armenia. By a decree of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, Shaumyanovskiy rayon, populated by Armenians, has been abolished. It is now included in the neighboring, larger Kasum-Izmailovskiy rayon, with a consequent radical alteration of the demographic situation. The threat of deportation hangs over practically all the besieged Armenian population of the autonomous oblast and adjacent rayons. In Stepanakert, leaflets are being circulated with an ultimatum to the Armenian population to leave the NKAO before 20 January. One could quote endless examples of this anti-Armenian campaign, which has been cleverly staged at just the right moment. A strong protest over the worsening of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh has been made by the Buro of the Communist Party of Armenia and the republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium.